BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

# Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 22 | Humidity 74% Cloudy and breezy Sensex 77,763 | Nifty 24,270 | Gold 1,47,060 | Silver 2,37,017 | Dollar 95.20 | Euro 108.96 | GBP 127.12

### Gatekeeping by police and local communities leaving cities without safe spaces for people to freely assemble and associate

# ATTACK OF THE MORAL BRIGADE

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A viral Instagram reel alleging that a young couple was harassed by police for sitting together in a park, has reignited concerns over moral policing in public spaces in Karnataka.

The reel, posted by the Instagram account echoes_of_yathartha, claims that the incident occurred in Mysuru. According to the post, two police personnel allegedly used abusive language and intimidated a young man and woman for sitting together, with the officers purportedly stating that "one girl and one boy cannot be seated together" in that location.

Describing the incident as a "misuse of power," the creator alleged that the couple was threatened despite not engaging in any unlawful activity. The post, however, clarified that it was not intended to target the Karnataka Police as a whole but was directed at the conduct of the two policemen allegedly involved.

The incident has sparked fresh discussions on moral policing, with student groups and young adults

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

**"Young people may want to spend time alone or with company, in nature, but the fear of being morally policed restrains them from freely accessing these spaces. The constitutional framework is ignored and no real measures to ensure the safety of women and children are being implemented**

—Vishwas Srinivas, Leading with Pride

# Walking into a minefield

### One illegal mining case detected every 11 hours, yet quarry tragedies continue

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Even as the Mines and Geology Department detected 2,367 cases of illegal mining, registered 568 FIRs and imposed Rs 25.92 crore in penalties over the past three financial years, the death of seven people in Thursday's quarry tragedy has once again raised uncomfortable questions about the effectiveness of enforcement on the ground.

The official figures mean that more than two illegal mining cases are detected every day, or roughly one case every 11 hours, while authorities collected an average of about Rs 2.37 lakh in penalties daily during the period. However, the latest disaster has renewed concerns over whether illegal quarrying continues unchecked in parts of the state.

Records show that enforcement agencies detected 784 illegal mining cases in 2023-24, 657 in 2024-25 and 926 in 2025-26, totaling 2,367 cases over three years. During the same period, 568 FIRs were registered,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

## BREATHING IS NEW SMOKING?

Breathing city's air can have same impact on lungs as smoking over 2 cigarettes per week

PAGE 7

## GUIDING LIGHT

Digital platform will connect visitors with govt-approved guides in boost to heritage tourism

PAGE 9

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Theatrical tribute

Antharanga, a celebrated Kannada theatre group, is set to present diverse plays at the Weekend Locality Drama Festival, featuring Kailasam Vaibhava, a heartfelt tribute to playwright TP Kailasam.
**Where: KEA Prabhat Auditorium, Basaveshwara Nagar;**
**When: July 4 and 5, 7.15 pm**

### 02 Threads of nature

A hands-on Natural Dyeing Workshop introduces beginners to sustainable textile dyeing, exploring fabric preparation, mordanting and colour development through step-by-step demonstrations.
**Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;**
**When: July 4, 12 pm**

### 03 Story on stage

Madari Productions presents Dirty Biryani, a drama comedy musical that celebrates womanhood. The story follows three eccentric women who meet serendipitously, ensuing chaos and craziness as events take surprising turns.

**Where: Jagriti Theatre;**
**When: July 11, 3.30 pm, 7.30 pm**

### 04 Heritage in harmony

The Academy of Music (Regd), Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, is set to present 'Nrutya Rangoli 2026', a prestigious three-day national dance extravaganza celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian classical dance traditions.

**Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall;**
**When: July 10 to 12**

### 05 Dance with digits

Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of Move Through Math, a handbook for parents and educators of children aged 5–10, introducing embodied, culturally grounded approaches to learning mathematics through movement, rhythm and spatial awareness.
**Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;**
**When: July 4, 6 pm**

# Change in weather leaves city under the weather

## Healthcare professionals report rise in patients presenting with viral illnesses, with weather conditions, unprecedented rains and increased travel cited as contributing factors

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Doctors urge extra caution for young children, seniors and chronically ill during monsoon (File photo)

Hospitals and clinics across Bengaluru are witnessing a rise in seasonal viral infections as fluctuating weather conditions, intermittent rains and increased humidity contribute to the spread of respiratory illnesses. Doctors say the increase is being observed among both adults and children, with most cases presenting symptoms such as fever, cough, cold, sore throat, fatigue and body aches.

Healthcare professionals report that outpatient departments have seen a noticeable surge in patients seeking treatment for viral illnesses over the past few weeks. While most infections remain mild and self-limiting, vulnerable groups such as young children, senior citizens, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses are being advised to remain cautious.

Speaking about the trend, Dr G Nasiruddin, Consultant - Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru, said, "Over the past few weeks, we have observed approximately a 20-30 per cent increase in patients presenting with viral illnesses compared to the previous month. Most cases are mild to moderate and are being managed on an outpatient basis."

According to Dr Nasiruddin, the current surge is likely due to a combination of factors, including frequent weather changes, intermittent rains, increased humidity and the circulation of respiratory viruses. Increased travel, crowded indoor environments and reduced adherence to preventive measures such as hand hygiene and mask use have also contributed to the rise in infections.

**Circulation of respiratory viruses, crowded indoor environments and reduced adherence to preventive measures such as hand hygiene and mask use have also contributed to rise in infections, says doctor**

He noted that while cases are being reported across all age groups, children and working adults appear to be bearing the brunt of the impact, with greater number of cases reported.

The most common symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough, cold, body aches, fatigue and, in some cases, gastrointestinal complaints. While many of these illnesses are caused by seasonal viral infections, clinicians must also remain vigilant for diseases such as influenza, dengue, malaria and other monsoon-related infections, as they can present with similar symptoms and require different treatment approaches.

Dr Basavaraj S Kumbar, Consultant- Internal Medicine, Aster Whitefield Hospital, said, "Residents should avoid self-medicating with antibiotics, as most seasonal viral infections do not require them. Maintaining good hand hygiene, staying well hydrated, eating a balanced diet, getting adequate rest, wearing a mask in crowded places when unwell and seeking timely medical attention if symptoms persist beyond 24–48 hours or worsen, are important steps to prevent complications. Families with young children, older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions should be particularly cautious during the monsoon season."

He said children are more susceptible due to close contact in schools and developing immunity. "While working adults are frequently exposed through travel, workplaces and crowded public spaces. Senior citizens and individuals with underlying health conditions remain at a higher risk of developing complications," he added.

## IISc to host convocation on July 10

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) will host its annual convocation on July 10, 2026, at 11 am, to confer degrees upon students who graduated in the 2025-26 academic year.

During the ceremony, 1,452 PhD and Master's students, and 118 undergraduate students will receive their degrees. The event will also witness medals being conferred upon 82 students for their academic excellence.

Since IISc's inception in 1909, more than 34,000 students have graduated from the Institute. **–BMB**

## No more wandering during school hours, say officials

The School Education and Literacy Department directed that students and teachers in government schools must not leave campus during school hours to prevent disruptions to classroom learning.

In a circular, Principal Secretary P Rashmi Mahesh instructed that teachers and headmasters should not be deputed for training programmes, workshops, meetings or other official activities during school hours. She also barred officials, including Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat CEOs, from issuing such directions. Schools must also not hold meetings or video conferences during class hours. Visiting officials must ensure inspections do not interfere with teaching.

The circular has laid down instructions aimed at streamlining school activities and safeguarding academic focus. It prohibits government school students from attending outside events as spectators during school hours and bars external examinations on working school days. Education officials were also instructed not to direct teachers or headmasters to undertake data entry work on behalf of the department or private organisations. The department warned that disciplinary action will be taken against those violating the guidelines. **–BMB**

## Schools urge govt to revise PCE reimbursement

The Karnataka Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools (KAMS) has urged the state government to immediately determine and notify the Per Child Expenditure (PCE) for the 2026-27 academic year under the Right to Education (RTE) Act. The association said reimbursements to private unaided schools admitting students under the RTE quota continue to be based on rates fixed eight years ago, despite a sharp rise in government spending on school education, including salaries, pensions, infrastructure, digital learning and welfare schemes. In its representation, KAMS cited provisions of the RTE Act, Karnataka RTE Rules and court rulings, including those of the Karnataka High Court and Supreme Court, to argue that the PCE must be revised annually. It also submitted an annexure compiled from official government financial records to support its demand and warned that it may move court if the statutory notification is further delayed. **–BMB**

# BLOs told to conduct door-to-door voter verification

Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar directed all district election officers to ensure Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carry out door-to-door distribution of enumeration forms under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, following complaints that some officials were issuing forms from offices instead of visiting voters' homes.

In a letter issued on Friday, the CEO instructed strict adherence to the Election Commission of India's guidelines and said voters facing difficulty in filling out the forms should be assisted at Voter Facilitation Centres, with the facility widely publicised.

The house-to-house verification drive, which began on June 30, will continue until July 29.

The directive comes amid allegations of irregularities in the SIR process by opposition parties, with JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and BJP state president BY Vijayendra accusing the ruling Congress of influencing the exercise and misusing BLOs. **BMB**

# Fake papers emerge amid SIR process

As the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls gathers pace, reports of fake document rackets have surfaced, with some cyber centres allegedly duping people by issuing forged birth certificates, residence certificates and other records.

Unsuspecting applicants, particularly those lacking SSLC mark sheets or valid address proof required for the voter verification exercise, are reportedly lured with promises of "official" documents and charged anywhere between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000.

According to reports, some cyber centres produce computer-generated birth certificates within 30 minutes by collecting basic details such as date and place of birth along with the payment.

The forged certificates allegedly carry fake registration numbers, hospital names and even digitally generated signatures of officials, misleading applicants into believing they are genuine. **BMB**

# Youth found charred along with bike, murder suspected

A 28-year-old man was found charred to death along with his two-wheeler on Bikkanahalli Road near Sarjapur in Anekal taluk on Thursday evening, triggering a murder investigation by the Sarjapur police.

The deceased has been identified as Vamsi Krishna, a native of Tenali in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. He was a student residing in Electronic City and had completed a Diploma in Engineering from NTTF College. He had previously worked in a private company for a year and was staying in a PG accommodation.

According to police, Vamsi left his PG around 3.40 pm on Thursday and headed towards Sarjapur to pick up his friend, Bhanu Prakash, who was arriving from Andhra Pradesh. On the way, he called another friend, Praveen, inviting him for dinner later that night. Around 4.40 pm, Bhanu called Vamsi after reaching Sarjapur bus stand, but his phone was switched off.

At around 6 pm, locals noticed flames by the roadside near Azim Premji College and alerted police. The youth's body and motorcycle were found completely burnt. Police have registered a murder case and are examining CCTV footage and call detail records. Further investigation is ongoing. **BMB**

# Daycare abuse: Accused in judicial custody

The HAL police have arrested nannies working at a daycare centre located inside the campus of Capgemini for allegedly abusing toddlers after videos of the incidents surfaced online, prompting a police investigation. In connection with the case, a Bengaluru court on Friday remanded Vijayalakshmi, one of the accused in the daycare abuse case, to 14 days of judicial custody.

At the time of reporting, the HAL police officially confirmed the arrest of Vijayalakshmi.

Responding to the incident, Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge condemned the alleged assault, calling it completely unacceptable and stating that such incidents would not be tolerated.

Further investigation into the case is ongoing. **BMB**

# Hoax threat traced to mentally unwell suspect

A hoax bomb threat targeting the Bengaluru headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) triggered heightened security, with police tracing the source of the email to Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. Police said the threatening email was received on July 2 at Antariksha Bhavan on New BEL Road, under the limits of Sanjaynagar Police Station. Police personnel conducted an extensive search, however, no suspicious objects or explosives were found, and the threat was later confirmed to be false. Probe led officers to Ghaziabad, where the suspect, identified as Nishath Tyagi (36), found to be mentally unstable, was secured. Further investigation is ongoing. **BMB**

# Bus destroyed in fire, passengers escape unharmed

A government bus from Kerala was completely gutted in a fire near Bengaluru's Jnanabharathi Metro Station on Friday evening. All passengers escaped safely without injuries.

The incident occurred at around 6 pm when the bus was approaching the Jnanabharathi Metro Station. According to preliminary information, smoke and flames suddenly began emerging from the engine compartment. The driver noticed the fire in time and acted swiftly by pulling the bus to the side of the road and evacuating passengers before the fire spread further. A detailed investigation has been initiated. **BMB**

# Man found dead at home, suicide suspected

A Bar Council clerk was found dead at his residence under RT Nagar Police Station limits.

According to officials, Bhaskar was living alone at his house. His wife had passed away nearly a decade ago and his daughter had recently gone to stay at her maternal relatives' home. It is suspected that Bhaskar died after hanging himself inside his residence nearly two days before the incident came to light. However, the exact time and cause of death are yet to be confirmed. Police have registered a UDR case and launched an investigation to ascertain the facts of the case. **BMB**

sparx

FLAUNT YOUR SUMMER SWAG

SS826

INTRODUCING CHUNKY SOLE SANDALS

*MRP-₹1249 (Incl. of all Taxes) Net Qty. 2N (One Pair)

Shop at www.relaxofootwear.com /SparxGoForIt | YouTube /RelaxoIndia

• All names, logos, and brands used here are property of their respective owners and are being used for identification purpose only, which does not imply any endorsement.
• Product images shown are for representation purpose only, actual may vary. Colour may vary due to printing limitations.

# Rooting out delays with online tree permissions

## B'luru's Forest Department is taking tree-felling permissions online, replacing paperwork with a faster, smarter approval process designed to ease public inconvenience

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In view of the large number of applications and public requests, the Forest Department of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to shift the process of seeking permission for the felling of dead or dangerous trees and the pruning of branches to an online platform.

According to the department, citizens and organisations will soon be able to submit their requests through the Sahaaya portal by accessing Form I (Form-1), as prescribed under Rule 4(1) of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Rules, 1977, uploading the required documents, and completing the application online. The system will have defined timelines for processing applications at every stage.

"We have been receiving an overwhelmingly large number of applications. Those submitting requests also follow up on the status of their applications through phone calls. This has become difficult to manage, given that the department has only a handful of staff. The online process will not only help citizens receive quick and timely updates but will also reduce the workload of the staff," said Sudarshan GK, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Citizens will soon apply online for hazardous tree removal permissions, replacing paperwork with faster digital approvals

**Forest officials will introduce an online system enabling applications for hazardous vegetation removal, SMS alerts, live monitoring and direct contact with responsible officers**

Applicants will receive SMS notifications informing them of the status of their applications and the stage at which they are pending. To improve transparency and accountability, a dashboard will also be made available to all Special Commissioners of the five corporations, enabling them to monitor the progress of applications in real time.

Given the high volume of requests, the department will also send applicants text messages containing the contact details of the concerned officials, allowing them to follow up directly on pending applications whenever required.

More than a month ago, the Greater Bengaluru Authority introduced a QR code to enable citizens to apply for permission to remove trees and branches that pose a risk to human life and property.

The GBA QR code could be scanned to download Form-1, which had to be completed and submitted to the Forest Department for the necessary permission and action.

GBA had clarified that all government and non-government institutions, organisations, factories, industries, establishments, owners and occupants within GBA limits were required to submit these applications to the Tree Officer under Section 8 of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act. The measure was introduced following a notice issued by the Lokayukta to the GBA.

# Warning bells ring over polluted Shikaripalya Lake

## Pollution watchdog sounds alarm after findings expose worsening conditions, putting civic authorities on notice to rescue a once-revived neighbourhood lake immediately

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) Environmental Officer of Anekal has directed the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) of Hulimangala Gram Panchayat to take immediate measures to prevent the entry of sewage, solid waste and debris into Shikaripalya Lake and submit an action taken report to preserve the lake ecosystem and avert the invocation of penal provisions under the Water Act.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, 'Rejuvenated Shikaripalya Lake slips back into crisis', on June 22, 2026, highlighting how sewage was flowing into the lake and fish were dying due to water pollution and low oxygen levels.

Based on the Bangalore Mirror report, a team of environmental officers inspected Shikaripalya Lake on June 22 in the presence of the Hulimangala Gram Panchayat Development Officer, members of the Gram Panchayat and local residents.

BangaloreMirror
Rejuvenated Shikaripalya Lake slips back into crisis
Residents blame sewage contamination, lake filled of dead fish and vandalism for worsening lake condition, while Panchayat promises fencing and protection measures

BM's June 22 report prompted action

During the inspection, the team found dead fish floating in the lake. They observed sewage entering the lake from the southern side through a stormwater drain and found solid waste accumulated at several locations around the lake boundary. The officers also collected water samples to assess the lake's water quality, and the samples were sent to the Central Laboratory for further analysis.

"Shikaripalya Lake is located at Survey No. 110 of Maragondanahalli village, Hulimangala Gram Panchayat,

Toxic sewage and dumped waste leave Shikaripalya Lake battling severe pollution and dwindling oxygen levels

Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban district. As per the records, the total area of the lake is around 18 acres and 39 guntas. The responsibility for the maintenance of the lake presently lies with the Hulimangala Gram Panchayat," the letter states.

It also stated that the issue of encroachment and contamination of Shikaripalya Lake has been taken cognisance of by the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, in Original Application No. 155 of 2022, based on a complaint received from residents regarding the lake's encroachment and contamination.

"The local residents informed us that the discharge of untreated sewage from nearby residential areas and indiscriminate dumping of waste into connected drains have resulted in the deterioration of water quality and the death of fish in the lake. The residents further expressed concern over the poor condition of the lake and requested immediate remedial measures to prevent further pollution," the letter states.

The Environmental Officer directed the Hulimangala Gram Panchayat to provide fencing around the entire lake boundary wherever required and deploy adequate security personnel on a 24-hour basis for continuous monitoring and protection of the lake against pollution, vandalism and encroachment.

"No person shall knowingly cause or permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter, determined in accordance with such standards as may be laid down by the State Board, to enter (whether directly or indirectly) any stream, well, sewer or land. Whoever contravenes the provisions of Section 24 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than one year and six months, which may extend to six years, along with a fine under Section 43 of the Act. The Gram Panchayat will also be held responsible for any consequences arising from depleted oxygen levels in the lake, which may be caused by the overgrowth of aquatic weeds resulting from the discharge of excessive sewage," the letter states.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

**Problems in your area?**
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

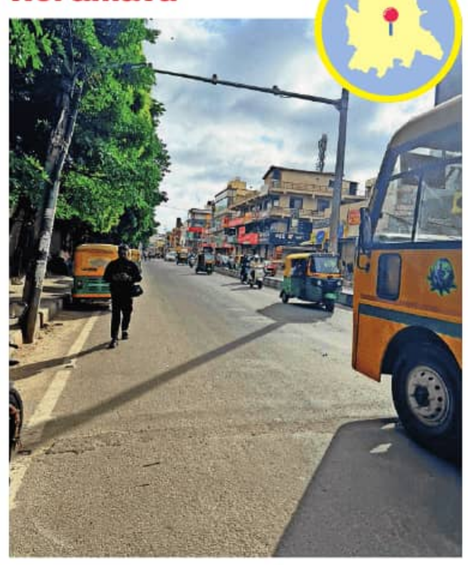
### Path blocked
Koramangala

Footpaths along 80 Feet Road near the Wipro signal have been encroached upon by parked two-wheelers and shop extensions, forcing pedestrians onto the carriageway.

### Pedestrian obstruction
Indiranagar

Street vendors have completely occupied the footpath at the junction of 12th Main Road and 100 Feet Road, obstructing pedestrian movement despite the presence of a traffic police post nearby.

### Traffic disorder
Horamavu



The Horamavu traffic signal and Main Road continue to witness rampant traffic violations, including wrong-side driving, two-wheelers using footpaths, and the absence of safe pedestrian crossings.

# Managed farmlands blend nature living with smart investments

Managed farmland projects are witnessing growing interest from buyers looking for long-term investments that combine land ownership with nature-centric living. Stretches along the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway are emerging as preferred locations as improving connectivity and rising demand for second homes reshape the market.

One key trend is the increasing popularity of plantations featuring commercially valuable trees such as sandalwood, which developers say offer potential long-term returns while promoting sustainable land use.

Buyers also prefer projects that let them own farmland without handling day-to-day operations, making professional maintenance a major attraction.

Developers are adding lifestyle amenities such as clubhouses, resort-style accommodation, swimming pools, parks, gyms, meditation halls, children's play areas, outdoor sports facilities, and round-the-clock CCTV security.

Real estate consultants say these projects attract urban professionals and NRIs seeking diversified investment opportunities beyond conventional residential real estate. **BMB**

# Quadruple rail corridors transform Bengaluru connectivity

Rail connectivity across Bengaluru and its surrounding regions is set for a major upgrade, with Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna announcing plans to develop quadruple railway lines to key destinations within a 100-km radius of the city.

Surveys for the Bengaluru-Tumakuru four-track corridor have been completed, and tenders will be floated shortly, with the project targeted for completion within two years. The Railways has also approved a survey for a similar four-track corridor between Bengaluru and Mysuru. In addition, the existing four-track line from Whitefield will be extended to provide direct rail connectivity to Kolar, with the Centre taking up land acquisition for the project.

The Railways is also examining a four-track corridor between Bengaluru and Mangaluru to strengthen connectivity to the coast. It is simultaneously pursuing faster rail links and continuing work on the Tumkur-Chitradurga-Davangere line, where track doubling has also been proposed. **BMB**

BM Property
Every Saturday
Contact for advertisement
Mahesh Malagi
9886721857

# Bengaluru bucks housing slowdown with growth

While housing sales across India's top seven cities fell 6% year-on-year in Q2 2026 amid global uncertainties, Bengaluru emerged as one of only three cities to register growth, recording a marginal 1% rise in sales to 15,285 units, according to ANAROCK.

Along with Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Bengaluru accounted for nearly 48% of total home sales and 53% of all new launches during the quarter. The city also recorded a 41% jump in fresh supply to 21,670 units, with 96% of new launches in the premium and luxury segments (₹80 lakh and above). Average residential prices climbed 8% year-on-year, the second-highest increase after NCR.

Despite an 11% quarter-on-quarter decline in new launches and a 7% drop in sales, Bengaluru continued to outperform most major markets. The city also recorded the highest annual increase in unsold inventory at 34%, with available stock rising from 58,890 units to 79,180 units.

Across the top seven cities, housing sales fell to 90,715 units from 96,285 a year earlier, while new launches increased 7% to 1.06 lakh units. ANAROCK Chairman Anuj Puri attributed the moderation in sales to uncertainty triggered by the West Asia conflict and AI-led concerns in the IT/ITeS sector, although demand remained resilient in premium housing and infrastructure-led markets. **BMB**

# Power connection deadline extended till August 15

The State Government has extended the deadline until August 15 for owners of residential buildings to apply for electricity connections by submitting the required documents and photographs, even if they have not yet obtained Occupancy Certificate (OC) or Completion Certificate (CC) clearances. The extension comes after the government received representations from homeowners across the state who had completed construction but were unable to apply for power connections.

The move is expected to benefit thousands of residents by enabling them to secure legal electricity connections for their homes. However, the government clarified that the relaxation will not extend to commercial buildings, stating that its decision is guided by the Supreme Court's directions. **BMB**

# Multiplex, 955 shops to redraw Chandapura-Anekal skyline by year-end

A commercial complex by the Karnataka Housing Board is set to transform the Chandapura-Anekal Road corridor by the end of this year. Spread across a 32,353 sq m campus with a built-up area of 8,733 sq m, the hi-tech facility at Surya Nagar will house 955 commercial units, four multiplex screens with a seating capacity of about 2,000, a food court, a gaming zone, and two basement parking levels.

Conceived in 2003 to cater to the growing residential demand in the region, the project is now in its final stages, with only around 10 per cent of the work remaining.

The Karnataka Housing Board expects the complex to become a major revenue generator, with plans to lease it out at an estimated monthly rental of Rs 2.59 crore after government approval. Officials believe the project will emerge as a key investment destination, create thousands of local jobs, and boost the area's economy.

Its strategic location also gains significance as the state government has already laid the foundation for the country's second-largest international cricket stadium in Surya Nagar Phase IV, positioning the region as a future hub for commerce, entertainment, and sports. **BMB**

Sharanya Farms
Sharanya Sandal
Valley Farms
5.5 Guntas Onwards
Own Your Piece of Nature and Build a Lasting Legacy.
Bangalore - Mysore road, Near malavalli
Invest in Sandalwood, Grow Returns
Where Every Tree Builds a Legacy and Every Harvest Creates Prosperity.
Ready-to-Use Resort with Premium Amenities
Own a Managed Farm with Premium Amenities including a Club House, Resort, Swimming Pool, Play Area, Meditation Hall, Outdoor Games, Gym, Park, 24×7 Security, CCTV Surveillance, and many more.
More Details
Call Now. 70 2626 2233

# Tiger reserves roar less as prey vanishes

## Tiger trouble deepens as Centre's report warns shrinking prey, fragile ecosystems and mounting ecological pressures threaten Karnataka's Bhadra and Kali reserves' future

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A recent report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has flagged a decline in prey density and the deterioration of habitat quality in Karnataka's Bhadra and Kali tiger reserves, raising concerns over the long-term conservation of the state's tiger population.

The report, prepared to guide state forest departments across the country on the active management of tigers in tiger reserves, underlines that in Kali Tiger Reserve, while tiger density has dropped to 0.57 tigers per 100 square kilometres, the prey density of chital and sambar, tigers' preferred prey, has also fallen to 0.0149 and 0.0357 per square kilometre, respectively.

In addition, habitat degradation has been observed in both Kali and Bhadra tiger reserves. The MoEF&CC noted that although Kali Tiger Reserve provides suitable habitat for tigers and their prey, tiger densities remain low despite its large area and relatively intact forest cover.

According to the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), Bhadra and Kali continue to support relatively low tiger populations, primarily due to low prey density rather than habitat loss alone. \Experts caution that each tiger reserve has distinct ecological characteristics and therefore requires site-specific management strategies.

"Both Bhadra and Kali receive high rainfall and are dominated by dense evergreen forests typical of the Western Ghats. Such ecosystems, although exceptionally rich in biodiversity, naturally support lower densities of large mammals than dry and moist deciduous forests, where prey species are generally more abundant," said Kumar Pushkar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka. Notably, Bhadra underwent a voluntary village relocation programme in 2004–05, which was expected to improve habitat quality and prey availability over time.

"Replenishment of wild prey populations is a gradual ecological process and cannot be achieved overnight. We expect the long-term benefits of habitat restoration and relocation efforts to become more evident in the upcoming tiger estimation results, with hopes of improved prey and tiger numbers in the next assessment cycle in both reserves," added Pushkar.

Bhadra and Kali tigers face mounting pressure from shrinking prey populations

**Bandipur and Nagarhole emerge as conservation success stories with thriving big cat populations, while officials pin hopes on habitat restoration and future revival measures**

According to the MoEF&CC, high biotic pressure, low prey abundance, the lack of a source population in the adjoining landscape, fragmented connectivity, and highly undulating terrain are among the limiting factors. The report further states that prey abundance in Bhadra Tiger Reserve is naturally low, highlighting the need to maintain habitat integrity, prey populations, and landscape connectivity through continued protection and monitoring.

KFD officials told BM that the situation is being closely monitored and managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

"In reserves where tiger numbers have reached carrying capacity, dispersing animals often move into adjoining forests and human settlements, increasing the risk of conflict. To address this imbalance, the NTCA has successfully implemented tiger reintroduction programmes in Sariska Tiger Reserve and Panna Tiger Reserve, where tiger populations have recovered significantly," the KFD said.

Building on that success, the authority has decided to pilot the Sariska–Panna model in five tiger reserves across the country. While none of the selected reserves is in Karnataka, officials said that if the model proves successful, it could subsequently be adopted in Bhadra and Kali.

### Top three reserves

The MoEF&CC report also states that three tiger reserves in Karnataka have recorded improvements in tiger numbers, prey density and habitat quality.

According to the report, Bandipur Tiger Reserve supports one of the highest tiger populations and densities in the Western Ghats due to its extensive habitat, abundant prey base and strong protection regime. The reserve therefore plays a critical role in maintaining metapopulation dynamics and enhancing the long-term resilience of tiger populations across the Western Ghats. Bandipur has 150 tigers, with a density of 9.50 tigers per 100 square kilometres. The reserve supports a healthy prey density of 25.91 chital per square kilometre and 4.18 sambar per square kilometre. Other prey species, including gaur, barking deer and wild pig, are also found.

Similarly, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is a key source population in the Western Ghats, with strong ecological connectivity supporting tiger dispersal and genetic exchange. It has 141 tigers, a density of 11.15 per 100 sq km, and abundant prey.

## Defence hub lands in Karnataka

The Centre plans to establish seven regional defence manufacturing clusters across the country under the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, with Karnataka set to lead the first and flagship cluster. The proposed network aims to boost indigenous defence production, testing, certification, exports, skill development, innovation and industrial infrastructure through collaboration between state governments, academic institutions, research organisations and private industry. Senior Defence Ministry officials have reportedly held multiple rounds of consultations and asked participating states to undertake the necessary groundwork.

Karnataka's cluster, with Rajasthan as co-lead, will focus on defence equipment testing, certification and quality standards, with academic support from IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee and IIT Jammu. The initiative aims to reduce India's dependence on defence imports while strengthening domestic manufacturing and creating opportunities for MSMEs in the sector. **–BMB**

## BESCOM clears caste confusion

Following queries raised in the media and on social media regarding the collection of beneficiary category (caste) details, BESCOM has clarified that providing this information is entirely optional and not mandatory. BESCOM staff and meter readers are currently visiting residential households to collect beneficiary data for the Gruha Jyoti scheme, which commenced across the state on July 1. The information is being collected through the Seva Sindhu mobile application and printed declaration forms.

BESCOM has clarified that entering the beneficiary's category (caste certificate details) is entirely optional. If a beneficiary does not wish to share their caste details, field staff have already been instructed to select the 'Refused to provide information' option available in the mobile application. For further queries, consumers can contact the following helpline numbers (6 am to 10 pm): 9480816111, 9480816112 or 9480816113. **–BMB**

# Registration blues leave owners locked out

## Legal vacuum over apartment associations sparks mounting frustration, with prolonged bureaucratic delays continuing despite court backing and statutory provisions already being in place

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Citing complaints from flat owners, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner has written to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, urging the government to identify a competent authority for the registration of apartment owners' associations.

In a letter dated 29 June, the Commissioner said many people had complained about difficulties in submitting applications. "Despite the existence of norms, the authorities concerned are refusing to accept applications for the registration of apartment owners' associations. This has led to administrative uncertainty as well as unnecessary litigation," the Commissioner said.

The Commissioner referred to a High Court judgment in the writ petition Rekha Kannan & Others v State of Karnataka & Others, which reiterated that residential apartment owners' associations must be registered under the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, and not under the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, 1959.

Home buyers welcome BDA move, seek swift government notification

The letter stated that Section 3(i) of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972 defines the competent authority as the Secretary of the Housing Department for housing projects under the department and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in other cases. It also noted that Section 5 of the Act makes registration of the deed of declaration mandatory.

"The implementation of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act has not been effective due to the delay in identifying the competent authority and the absence of a government order prescribing the procedure for accepting and verifying documents submitted by applicants. The authorities must identify the competent authority and designate the office responsible for accepting and verifying the documents. They must also specify the documents required, the norms to be followed while submitting them, and the time limit for their verification and processing," the letter reads.

The Commissioner's letter received a mixed response from homebuyers. The Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum welcomed the initiative, saying the appointment of a competent authority under the KAOA, 1972 has remained pending for five decades.

"Recently, RERA ordered the BDA to enable the formation of an association and transfer common areas to the association of allottees under Section 17 of RERA in the BDA Gunjur Apartment project. I hope the government will resolve this issue soon by declaring a competent authority under the KAOA, 1972," said Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum.

However, Kiran R, a flat owner in Konadasapura, said the BDA had not completed pending works, including the compound wall. Narayana Shetty, a flat owner at the BDA apartment, said residents would register an association only after the BDA completed pending works, including making the STP operational, providing fire safety equipment, and issuing the Occupation Certificate (OC).

# Breathing or smoking, the line's blurry in B'luru

## Data from CPCB's air quality dashboard reveals poor air quality across city, with similar estimated impact on lungs as smoking more than 2 cigarettes per week

Heavy vehicular traffic is a major contributor to pollution in city (File photo)

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's air quality has improved significantly over the past few weeks, largely due to the monsoon. However, the city's air is still far from clean.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) newly launched air quality dashboard, breathing Bengaluru's air, particularly during the evening or morning hours, has a similar impact on the lungs as smoking more than 2 cigarettes a week, or nearly 10 cigarettes a month.

As per the hourly AQI data of Bengaluru provided by the dashboard, the worst air quality level in the city typically peaks during early morning or late evening hours due to temperature inversion.

The cigarette-equivalent estimates are based on the Berkeley Earth formula, which equates exposure to 22 μg/m³ of PM2.5 with smoking one cigarette.

To compare, in Delhi, the current air quality during peak hour is equivalent to smoking a little over 2 cigarettes per day.

Experts attribute Bengaluru's peak pollution hours primarily to heavy vehicular traffic.

"Vehicular emissions remain the biggest source of particulate matter and are largely responsible for the city's poor air quality. During peak hours, the sheer volume of vehicles on the roads slows traffic, increasing PM2.5 emissions. This is further aggravated by the resuspension of dust from unpaved roads, potholes and the numerous construction activities underway across the city, leading to a spike in the Air Quality Index (AQI)," said an air quality expert.

**Vehicular emissions, dust from unpaved roads, potholes and construction, remain primary source of B'luru's poor air quality, says expert**

The CPCB dashboard also integrates real-time air quality data with weather information on a single platform, presenting pollution levels in a simple, easy-to-understand format. It is designed to help citizens make informed decisions about outdoor activities while also highlighting pollution trends and regional variations. By making air quality information more accessible, the platform aims to enable people to better understand how the air around them changes throughout the day and plan their routines accordingly.

The dashboard also takes into account health concerns such as headache, eye irritation, asthma, heart issues, allergy and sinuses. While the risk of developing these health issues in the current AQI in Bengaluru has been categorised under the 'low' category, the dashboard advises people to stay indoors, use car filters and N95 masks when stepping out.

The expert added that avoiding outdoor exposure is not a long-term solution.

"Unfortunately, the city's air quality has steadily deteriorated over the past few years despite the measures that authorities claim to have undertaken. Even the hundreds of crores spent under the National Clean Air Programme have failed to bring down PM10 levels significantly. This indicates that authorities, particularly the Greater Bengaluru Authority's Forest, Environment and Climate Cell, need to rethink their strategy and adopt more effective interventions," the expert added.

## 141 COTPA cases registered in enforcement drive

In a special enforcement drive aimed at curbing tobacco-related violations, the East Division Police registered 141 cases under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).

As part of the operation, police teams conducted surprise inspections at petty shops, bakeries, condiment stores and hotels located near schools, colleges and other public places across the East Division Police Station limits. The drive focused on identifying establishments violating provisions of the COTPA Act, particularly those involved in the sale and promotion of tobacco products in restricted areas.

Apart from enforcement, police also used the opportunity to spread awareness among shopkeepers and public about harmful effects of smoking and tobacco consumption. Officials educated citizens on legal restrictions and penalties related to violations. The Police Department has urged the public to strictly follow the law, stating that similar drives will continue in coming days to protect public health and ensure compliance. —BMB

## 'Vague telephonic conversations can't constitute dowry cruelty'

HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a woman living in Luxembourg who was accused of instigating her parents to harass her sister-in-law for dowry through telephone calls, holding that vague and omnibus allegations of telephonic instigation are insufficient to constitute cruelty under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code.

Justice M Nagaprasanna ruled that accepting such allegations without specific material would impermissibly expand the scope of criminal liability, allowing every phone conversation between an in-law living abroad and family members to be treated as evidence of criminal conduct.

The petitioner, arraigned as Accused No 4, is the complainant's sister-in-law. She had gotten married in 2017, several years before the complainant married her brother in July 2022, and had been residing permanently in Luxembourg.

Following matrimonial disputes, the complainant lodged an FIR against her husband, parents-in-law and the petitioner.

The only allegation against the petitioner was that she had telephoned her parents from Luxembourg and allegedly instigated them to harass the complainant and demand additional dowry.

Challenging the FIR, the petitioner approached the High Court under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure seeking quashing of the proceedings.

The High Court had earlier stayed the investigation against her while allowing the case to continue against the other accused.

Allowing the petition, the court held the allegations against the petitioner were entirely general in nature and did not disclose any specific overt act amounting to cruelty. —BMB

## Undertrial prisoner allowed to register property documents

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that an undertrial prisoner has a legally enforceable right to execute and register documents relating to his property by following the procedure laid down under Section 38 of the Registration Act, 1908.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum held that a person in judicial custody pending trial does not lose ownership of movable or immovable property merely because criminal proceedings are pending against him.

The court observed that an undertrial's civil rights remain intact except to the extent that restrictions are imposed by law to ensure prison discipline, security and orderly administration.

The judge observed that an accused in judicial custody "does not suffer a civil death" merely because criminal prosecution is pending. The court reiterated that an undertrial prisoner retains ownership of his property and continues to enjoy civil and proprietary rights, subject only to restrictions necessary for prison administration and security. The court also rejected administrative inconvenience as a justification for denying the statutory right. Finding that the petitioner's entitlement was not disputed by the respondents, the High Court allowed the writ petition and directed the Superintendent of Central Prison, Dharwad, to permit the jurisdictional Sub-Registrar to visit the prison and complete the registration process in accordance with law. —BMB

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/bangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

### NATURE'S PINK CARPET

Our reader shares a stunning image of a vibrant cluster of Pink Rain Lilies blooming across the M S Engineering College campus in Bengaluru. Flourishing in abundance, the delicate star-shaped blossoms create a striking pink carpet against the lush green foliage and earthy brown soil, celebrating the simple yet captivating beauty of nature.

The picture was clicked by reader **Vijay Kumar HK**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

# ORR upgrade plan to be finalised after public consultation, says Krishna Byre Gowda

**Authorities propose corridor-wide upgrades, junction redesigns and traffic improvements while seeking public input before finalising the ambitious redevelopment blueprint**

The design for the proposed comprehensive redevelopment of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will be finalised only after consultations with local residents, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Speaking to the media after inspecting the proposed redevelopment of the ORR from Silk Board Junction to Baiyappanahalli Metro Station, the minister said the project aims to rebuild one of Bengaluru's busiest corridors at an estimated cost of Rs 400-450 crore. Noting that the ORR is lined with apartments, offices and commercial establishments, Byre Gowda said the road design must reflect local traffic patterns and on-ground realities. Once the draft design is prepared, it will be shared with residents and stakeholders for feedback before being finalised.

The Minister also directed officials to prepare and implement a comprehensive traffic management plan for Doddanekundi Junction and develop the area beneath the flyover on the lines of the makeover at Sivananda Circle. At Kadubeesanahalli Junction, he called for a model traffic redesign, directing officials to pilot temporary kerbs and adopt the plan permanently if successful, besides improving the turning radius to ensure smoother vehicle movement. He also instructed officials to take immediate steps to ease congestion at Devarabeesanahalli Junction.

For the Bellandur-Eco space stretch, the minister directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to shift its large pipeline underground, develop the stormwater drain, widen the road, and extend the existing skywalk to the service road to improve pedestrian connectivity and traffic flow.

**Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byregowda inspecting ORR stretch on Thursday night**

### Unified civic platform to end road digging

In a move aimed at addressing Bengaluru's long-standing civic coordination issues, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday announced the creation of a unified GIS-based digital platform that will bring all major civic agencies onto a common system for planning and executing infrastructure works.

The announcement followed the second meeting of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Executive Committee. All agencies will upload proposed projects to the platform, while citizens can report potholes and track action taken. "People have been asking for better coordination among civic agencies for over three decades. The Executive Committee has been established to provide an institutional and permanent solution to this long-standing problem," Gowda said. He added that 141 km of encroached footpaths have been cleared in two days.

**-BMB**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists studying the comet 3I/ATLAS have determined that this interstellar visitor is remarkably ancient, having formed an estimated 10 to 12 billion years ago in a primordial planetary system, and has a composition unlike anything in our solar system. Researchers analysing the comet's chemical composition found it likely formed in an extremely cold environment, around minus 243 degrees Celsius, far colder than the region where Earth and the rest of the solar system formed 4.5 billion years ago. "We have never before seen an object like 3I/ATLAS," said Martin Cordiner, lead author of the study and a planetary scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre. The team used the James Webb Space Telescope to study hydrogen and carbon isotopes, discovering water with about 30 times more deuterium than comets in our solar system. "Our James Webb Space Telescope observations tell us that the planet-forming environment of 3I/ATLAS's host system was distinct from our own solar system. It was likely colder, and less metal rich, while being more heavily irradiated by UV and cosmic rays," Cordiner said. "Shows that despite a cold and distant origin, the volatile elements for life as we know it were abundant in this distant planet-forming disk." Researchers expect the comet to exit the solar system around 2035. **-Reuters**

**GET HEARD WITH MIRROR**

**9591233247**

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

**BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR**

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

## Iran's foreign grounded ship claim unravels as sanctioned vessel's months-long Strait presence comes to light

**THE CLAIM:** Iranian state television claimed a foreign container ship ran aground in the Strait of Hormuz after ignoring Revolutionary Guard instructions and sailing outside Iran's designated maritime route, risking serious consequences.

**FACT:** Marine tracking data identified the vessel as Iran-linked Arista, stranded since March in Iranian waters. Formerly sanctioned as Gauja, it was not a foreign ship newly grounding.

Iranian state television claimed this week that a foreign ship got stuck in the Strait of Hormuz after ignoring instructions to use a route laid out by the Islamic Republic's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. But the ship is tied to Iran and appears to have been stranded in the strategic waterway for months.

The vessel, identified by its shape, reported location and other details, is the container ship Arista, reportedly sailing under a false Comoros flag. The ship was previously known as the Panama-flagged Gauja, which the U S Treasury sanctioned last year as part of what it described as a network that had been "generating tens of billions of dollars in profit" for Iran's ruling elite.

Iranian state television aired on-screen alerts on Wednesday claiming that a foreign container ship had run aground after ignoring navigation instructions issued by the Revolutionary Guard navy.

"A foreign container ship, because of choosing a route other than the one designated under the Iranian order, has run aground in the Strait of Hormuz," a state TV news anchor said in the segment, which included images of the grounded vessel. "This comes as the navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has consistently warned that any entry into or exit from routes other than 'the Route of Authority' in the Persian Gulf could lead to irreparable incidents."

Marine tracking data, however, shows the Arista has remained stranded north of Hormuz Island in Iran's territorial waters since the middle of March while travelling between Hormuz and Asaluyeh. TankerTrackers.com first identified the vessel, while footage from an Armenian news outlet matched the ship in the broadcast using its container colours and paint scheme. Iranian state television blurred the vessel's name and did not show its registration number. Iranian authorities and the country's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the vessel's status.

On July 30, the U S Treasury linked the Gauja to an oil smuggling network allegedly run by Mohammad Hossein Shamkhani, son of the late Iranian security adviser Ali Shamkhani. "The Shamkhani family's shipping empire highlights how the Iranian regime elites leverage their positions to accrue massive wealth and fund the regime's dangerous behaviour," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. After the sanctions, the ship was renamed Arista and began operating under what shipping data identifies as a false Comoros flag. **— AP**

# Let licenced guides take you through K'taka

## New digital platform promises authentic heritage experiences by linking tourists directly with multilingual, government-approved guides across 15 districts

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

**State-backed initiavtive curbs fake guides by offering verified professionals online, ensuring trust, transparency and deeper insights at Karnataka's heritage destinations**

Fake tour guides continue to operate unchecked at several of Bengaluru's iconic heritage sites, exploiting tourists with misleading information and unauthorised services. To tackle this menace, the Tourism Department is set to launch 'Meet Your Karnataka Guides', a digital platform that will connect visitors directly with government-approved guides, making heritage tourism more authentic, transparent and hassle-free across Karnataka.

Developed in line with the department's tourism campaign, 'One State, Many Worlds', the portal aims to enhance the travel experience by providing easy access to verified local guides. Tourists visiting heritage monuments, historical sites and other destinations will be able to access details of authorised guides online instead of relying on local intermediaries. The department is currently developing the software, and it expects to launch the portal within the next month.

Initially, the platform will feature licensed tourist guides from 15 districts, including Bengaluru Urban, Mysuru, Vijayanagara-Ballari, Vijayapura, Kolar, Shivamogga, Hassan, Bagalkot, Chamarajanagar, Davanagere, Koppal, Kalaburagi, Chitradurga, Mandya and Udupi. Users can select a district, browse the list of available guides and contact them directly.

An official said, "The portal will provide comprehensive information about every registered guide, including their name, photograph, licence validity, years of experience and the languages they speak. Contact numbers will also be displayed, enabling tourists to communicate directly with guides and choose one based on their preferences and language requirements. The department believes the initiative will particularly benefit foreign tourists by helping them identify multilingual guides without any hassle."

The department launched the initiative to eliminate the role of middlemen. Officials said tourists had complained about unauthorised agents posing as guides and charging exorbitant fees at popular destinations. By giving visitors direct access to a database of registered guides, the department expects to improve transparency while ensuring tourists receive authentic and professional services.

Tourism Commissioner Dr V Ram Prasath Manohar said the 'Meet Your Karnataka Guides' portal would serve as a bridge of trust between tourists and licensed guides.

An official said, "Our objective is to ensure that every tourist can access the details of experienced and authorised guides at their fingertips without any confusion. The portal will improve the quality of tourism services and help take Karnataka's tourism standards to the international level. We are also planning to launch a dedicated mobile application shortly."

The initiative has also received support from the state's tourist guides. Virupakshi V Hampi, State General Secretary of the Tourist Guides' Association, said the digital platform would benefit both tourists and licensed guides. "This is a welcome initiative by the Tourism Department. It will make it easier for tourists to find qualified guides while also creating better opportunities for registered professionals. More importantly, it will help visitors gain a deeper understanding of Karnataka's rich heritage and cultural legacy," he said.

With the portal, Tourism Department aims to make tourist guidance more accessible, reliable and technology-driven, ensuring visitors receive authentic information statewide.

# Expired beer reused for composting, bottles recycled to reduce waste

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

What could have ended up as waste was instead transformed into a resource at Swachagraha Kalika Kendra in HSR Layout, where volunteers recently used 10 crates of expired beer for composting and gardening, while ensuring the glass bottles were sent for recycling.

The initiative began after environmentalist Odette Katrak was informed by an event organiser that several crates of beer, which had expired around seven months earlier, were lying unused after an event. Instead of discarding the contents, she contacted the team at Swachagraha Kalika Kendra to explore a sustainable alternative.

The expired beer was diluted at a ratio of one litre of beer to 20 litres of water before volunteers applied it to compost piles at the centre. They also poured the diluted solution around plant roots instead of allowing the material to enter the waste stream.

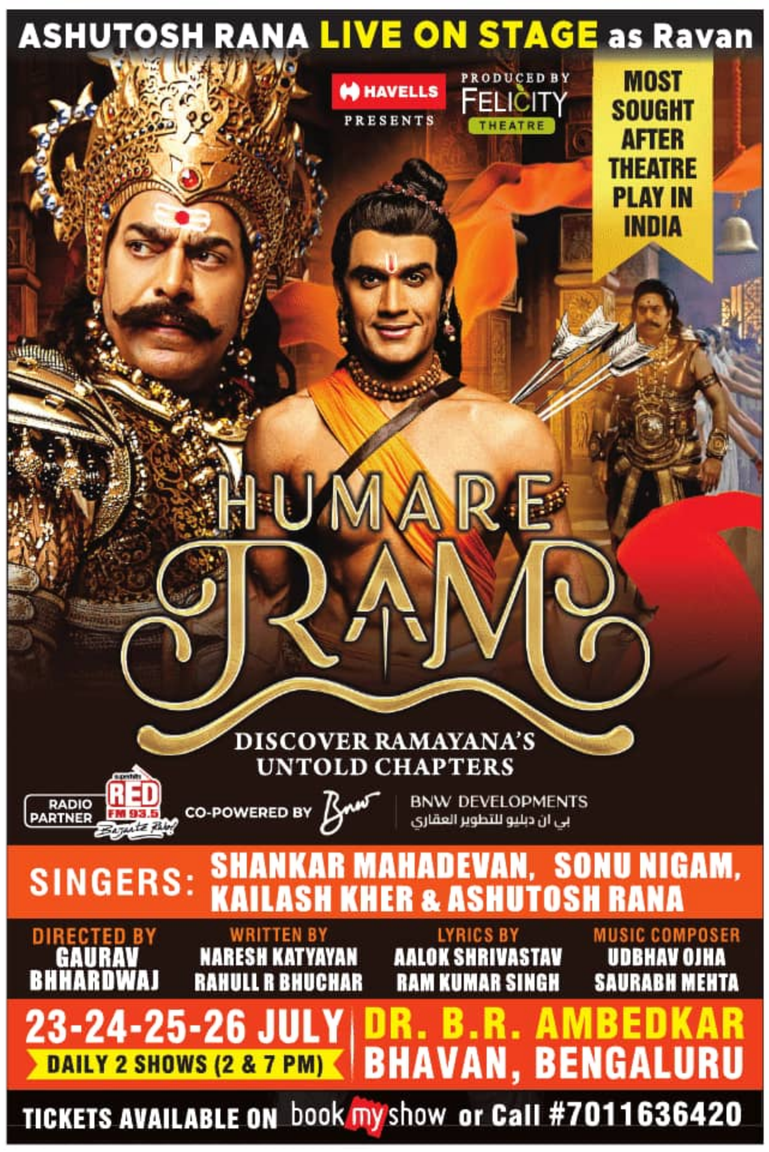
Dr Shanthi Tumalla of Swachagraha Kalika Kendra said, "We don't want to throw any resource in the drain unnecessarily. Alcohol has yeast and sugar; it acts as food for microbes. The decomposition process will be activated. Diluting and putting it for plants helps soil microbes as well. They release micronutrients like potassium and phosphorus. The dilution of 1:20 should be put on the roots. One litre of beer and 20 litres of water. We used it on our compost in Kalika Kendra."

The centre said the compost heaps benefited from the additional microbial activity encouraged by the yeast and sugars in the beer.

Katrak said the initiative also highlighted waste management and public awareness. "Most people, when things expire, will put them outside the door for housekeeping staff and vendors to pick up. In this case, it was seven-month-old expired beer after an event. One of the organisers reached out to me and said they had it," she said.

She added, "We want to change our way of thinking. People should know what happens to the waste after it goes out of the door. We could have just poured the alcohol into the sink and sent the bottles for recycling. Then we thought, why throw the beer when it can have benefits? Beer has yeast and can be good for composting. The bottles can be reused and recycled. The lesson is to think about what happens to the waste instead of leaving it at the door and assuming it is someone else's responsibility." The bottles were later handed over to a dry waste collection centre and material recovery facility for recycling.

16 Years of Celebrating Ashadhi Ekadashi An Evening of Abhangs 'BOLAVA VITTHAL'
॥ पंचम निषाद ॥
॥ बोलावा विठ्ठल ॥
Aarya Ambekar
Jayateerth Mevundi
Friday 17 July 2026 | 6:30 pm
At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Bengaluru
Tickets available on bookmyshow (Few Seats Reserved)
Gold Sponsor
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda
India's International Bank
Resonance Designs


ASHUTOSH RANA LIVE ON STAGE as Ravan
HAVELLS PRESENTS
PRODUCED BY FELICITY THEATRE
MOST SOUGHT AFTER THEATRE PLAY IN INDIA
HUMARE RAM
DISCOVER RAMAYANA'S UNTOLD CHAPTERS
RADIO PARTNER RED FM 93.5
CO-POWERED BY BNW DEVELOPMENTS
SINGERS: SHANKAR MAHADEVAN, SONU NIGAM, KAILASH KHER & ASHUTOSH RANA
DIRECTED BY GAURAV BHARDWAJ
WRITTEN BY NARESH KATYAYAN RAHULL R BHUCHAR
LYRICS BY AALOK SHRIVASTAV RAM KUMAR SINGH
MUSIC COMPOSER UDBHAV OJHA SAURABH MEHTA
23-24-25-26 JULY
DAILY 2 SHOWS (2 & 7 PM)
DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR BHAVAN, BENGALURU
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON bookmyshow or Call #7011636420

## jobs

## SITUATION VACANT

### ACADEMIC

### GENERAL

**PERSONALIZED** English training delivered to your doorstep in Bangalore care 7975328796 / eetirao@gmail.com

### MEDICAL

### MEDICAL

**WANTED** FOR NURSING STAFF Contact: Chaitanya Hospital No 80/117, P&T Colony R.T.Nagar Bangalore:32, Call: 9900520357

## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** RIYAZ AHMED S/o Abdul Razack, resident of No.657, 9th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Dharmanna Garden, Dinnur, Everest Public School, RT Nagar, B'lore- 32, I do hereby declare that I have changed my name from RIYAZ AHMED ABDUL RAZACK to RIYAZ AHMED vide Affidavit dated 02.07.2026, sworn before Notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

**I,** MAHESWARI SAMPATH KUMAR residing At NO.196, 1st Block 2nd Main B E L Layout Vidyaranyapura Bengaluru, Karnataka-560097, have changed my name to MAHESHWARI SAMPATH KUMAR vide affidavit dated 03/07/2026 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa Bangalore

**I** Triveni Nagaraja Reddy W/o Nagaraja Reddy.A, Residing At Survey Number 297/4,Bidarg - uppe, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bidaragupee, Bengaluru 562107, have changed my name to Triveni Ramaswamy Reddy for all purposes

**I,** Shyam Kumar S R/o N0-250,vidyaranyapura Main Road,narasipura Layout,vidyaranyapura,bengaluru-560097 have changed my minor daughter's name from Yashaswini Shyam to Yashaswini Shyam Kumar.

**I** Nagabhushana Rao Beejadi Subbanna, S/o Subbanna Rao.B, Residing at Nagabhushan Hospital, B H Road, Arsikere 573103, have changed my name to Nagabhushan Rao Beejadi Subbanna for all purposes

**I,** Vaishnavi PV W/o Sreenidhi Bhat Koteshwara Mohan R/o No 209,2nd Floor,SLV Magnum Apartment, Manjunath Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Vaishnavi Raj Paraul Vadiraj for all purposes

**I,** ASLAM SHERIFF, R/a. #27/1,Thimmaiah Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore–51. I, have Changed my name to ASLAM SHARIFF, Vide affidavit dated 01/07/2026 Sworn before Notary G.Dayananda. Bangalore

**I,** Neelufar, Aged 35 yrs, R/o. No. 33A 20 1 Midigarapalli, Hosur Cattle Farm PO, Mathigiri, Krishnagiri-635110, have changed my name to NEELUFAR SHAIK ALI vide affidavit Dt: 03/07/26 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

**I** Poornima Beejadi Manjunath, W/o Nagabhushan Rao.B.S, Residing at Nagabhushan Hospital, B H Road, Arsikere 573103, have changed my name to Poornima Nagabhushan Rao for all purposes

**I,** Usman Khan Khaleel, R/at No.23, Sakamma Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560084, have changed my name to U K KHALEEL, vide affidavit dt: 02.07.2026, Notary V Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

**I,DHRAVYA** R D/O RAVI KUMAR K Resident of No 79 4th A Main Opp SBI Bank Hongasandra,Begur Main Road,Bangalore-570068,have changed my name To DHRAVIYA R For All Purpose

**I,** RASHID FUZAIL (Old Name) Residing at No. 1 B Street Old Korcher Palya Shivajinagar Bangalore- 560051 have changed my name to S.F.RASHID FUZAIL (New Name) For All Pursposes.

**I,** Bharathi Sreenivasamurthy W/o Dr Nandeesh V Hiremath R/o B 2024,Brigade Meadows, Kanakapura Main Rd,Saluh - nase, Udayapura, B'lore 560082 have changed my name to Bharathi Nandeesh Hiremath

**I,** kumkum pal resident of 9,Nagwa , jaitpur post, Gorakhpur dist, Uttar pradesh 273212 , have changed my name to Kumkum devi for all purpose

**I,** Bhoomagoud Pranavi Goud born on 18-04-2008, residing at #205, Axis Amairo, 12th main, 5th phase, JP nagar, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to B. Pranavi Goud

**I,** DAANIA SAYED MOSEEN, D/o SAYED MOSEEN MAKBULAHAMED, R/o No 299 Zeenath Residency, 4th Floor, 6th A Main, HMT Layout, Dinnur, Ganganagar, Bengaluru-560032. I have changed my name to SAYED DAANIA MOSEEN vide affidavit dated: 01/07/2026 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bengaluru.

**I,** NUSRATHUNNISA BEGAM, W/o ABDULLA KHAN, R/o 1040B, 12th cross near Farida Shoe Factory Govindpura Bengaluru-560045. I have changed my name to NUSRATHUNISA BEGUM vide affidavit dated: 02/07/2026 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bengaluru.

**I,** CHAITRA K S, W/o MOHAMMED BILAL SHAIK, R/o No 563, 3rd Floor 2nd main Dharmanna Garden Hebbal Dinnur Bengaluru-560032. I have changed my name to AIRAH FATHIMA vide affidavit dated: 01/07/2026 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bengaluru.

**I,** MUSTHAKHIM S, S/o SHEK IBRAHIM PASHA, R/o No 330, 11th main Virat Nagar Main road opp Ghousiya Masjid Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068. I have changed my name to S M MUSTAQIM vide affidavit dated: 01/07/2026 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bengaluru.

**I** Mohammed Khader Khan S/O, Mohammed Ayub Khan Akbar Khan R/o No:37, Thimmaiah Road Cross, B Cooks Road, Makka Masjid, Shivajinagar, Blore-01. have changed my name to Mohammed Abdul Khader Khan for all Purpose.

**I,** CHINMAYIM W/o SRIRAMA S M and R/o 16/8, 4th main, 4th cross, papaiah gardens, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to CHINMAYI M vide affidatvit dated 29.6.2026 before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**I,** SANA MANSOOR, R/a.#108,3rd Flr,5th Cross, Chandni Chowk Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore–51. I, have Changed my name to AYESHA SIDDIQUA, Vide affidavit, dated 27/09/2016 Sworn before Notary B.R. Shashikala. Bangalore--

**I,** SYED NAYAZ ABDUL SUBHAN, R/a,#4,4th Main Road, Hall Road Cross, Sagayapuram , Bangalore– 51. I, have Changed my name to SYED NAYAZ SUBHAN, Vide affidavit, dated 01/07/2026 Sworn before Notary G.Dayananda. Bangalore

**I,** R RAMESH KUMAR, S/o NARAYANASAMY, R/o No 54, 1st FLoor 2nd main, 3rd cross Pothalappa Garden Bangalore-560030. I have changed my name to ABDUR RAHMAN vide affidavit dated: 01/07/2026 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bengaluru.

**I,** Sreenidhi KM S/o K R Mohan Kumar R/o No 209, 2nd Floor, SLV Magnum Apartment, Manjunath Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Sreenidhi Bhat Koteshwara Mohan for all purposes

**I,** MUBARAK PASHA PYARE JAN, R/a,#2530, Khakisha Mohala, Kolar-563101. I, have Changed my name to MUBARAK PASHA, Vide affidavit, dated 27/06/2026 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan. Bangalore

**I,** MOHAMED ZAMEER MUNAWAR, R/a.#4381,Gandhi Nagar, Bangarpet-563114. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED ZAMEER, Vide affidavit, dated 27/06/2026 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan. Bangalore

**I,** Shyam Kumar S R/o N0-250,vidyaranyapura Main Road,narasipura Layout,vidyaranyapura,bengaluru-560097 have changed my minor son's name from Aniruddh Shyam to Aniruddh Shyam Kumar.

**I,** IMRHANA KHANAM MOUDA, R/o # 14 3rd Main Road, K H B Main Road, Kavalbyrasandra, Bengaluru-560032,have changed my name to IMRANA KHANAM.

**I,** Shashikala Krishnegowda W/o Kempaiah Huchegowda R/o No 95, 6th Cross, Heggana halli, Sanjeevini Nagar 1st Stage, Bengaluru 560091. Have Changed my name to Shashikala Gowda for All Purposes


Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

GALLERIA

Vikram Travels
(Recognised by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
ISO 90001:2000 Estd: 1981
P:- 0824-2494140, 2491109 M :- 8105455552/9880725851
Blr :- 080-23461222, M :- 8951829577
E.mail - info@vikramtravels.in, Web: WWW.Vikramtravels.in
SOUTH INDIA TOUR 6/7 DAYS
JULY : 11, 25 AUG : 8, 15, 22, 26 SEP : 4, 12, 26 OCT : 2, 10, 17, 20, 24, 29
PURI KONARK 6 DAYS
JULY : 18 AUG : 14, 21 SEP : 15, 22 OCT : 6, 14, 20, 27
KASHI AYODHYA PRAYAGRAJ 6 DAYS
JULY : 20, 27 AUG : 4, 10, 22 SEP : 5, 15, 21 OCT : 5, 10, 17, 24
CHARDHAM /DHODHAM TOUR 14 DAYS
JULY : 9, 17, 24, 30 AUG : 8, 14, 22 SEP : 9, 16, 23, 30 OCT : 2, 9, 16, 21
ASSAM, MEGHAYALA 12 DAYS
OCT : 22 NOV : 4, 18 DEC : 2, 16

5 DAYS ONLY
FIRST TIME IN NAMMA BENGALURU
TODAY & TOMORROW
2 Shows 4pm & 7pm
INDIA'S GOT TALENT — Finalist —
Vicky Krish's
International
MAGIC SHOW
Venue:
TOWN HALL A/c
J.C ROAD, BENGALURU
FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT :
89 39 39 0999
bookmyshow

WE BUY OLD SILK SAREE JARI
FOR INSTANT CASH
We Purchase Of Old Silk Saree From Kanchipuram @ Bangalore Shop at A S Babusa & Prakash Society Price
SRI KANCHEEPURAM OLD SILK SAREE CENTER
@ H.S.R. LAYOUT, BDA COMPLEX
10 DAYS ONLY 04-07-2026 TO 16-07-2026
WE BUY ALL TYPES OF
- OLD SILKS SAREE (Pure Zari Only)
- Kancheepuram Silk Sarees
- Mysore Silk sarees
- Banaras Silk Sarees
- Dharmavaram Silk Sarees
- Marriage Tissue Silk Sarees
- Barket Silk Sarees & Silk Dhoti
- Silk Langa in any condition
From 11.00 am to 7.30 pm
Sunday Working
Call us from your location for Old damage silk saree we collect form your Doorstep, we give spot cash
Saree taken from the cost of Rs. 500/- to Rs. 50,000/-
Bring This Paper Cutting & Get 1 Gram Gold Plated Bangles Sets Free
9448864446 / 8123278889
No. 13, G/F , BDA COMPLEX, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 102,
(Opp. Nandini Milk parlor & Bata), (Next to SHAPES & DTDC Courier)

GET NOTICED

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava®
Art, Crafts, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition
Organised by Grand Flea Market
YOU ARE INVITED
GRAND OPENING
OPEN AIR THEATRE
New Stalls New Stories
Discover fresh narratives
3rd – 12th JULY 2026
10.30 AM to 7.30 PM
10 Days Exhibition
90+ Stalls | Entry Free
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
( Open Air Theatre & 7 Galleries )
Kumara Krupa Road, Near Shivananda Circle
Bengaluru - 560 001
6364685716 / 9036658774
Entry Free
Arts | Handicrafts | Clothing | Fashion Accessories | Home Decor & More

# DINK couples too in the radar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

arguing that couples should not face scrutiny merely for spending time together in public spaces.

Aratrika of the All India Students' Association (AISA) said the very premise of questioning couples in public reflects deep-rooted social attitudes.

"Ideally, couples sitting and chatting should not even be a reason for the police or general society to raise eyebrows. Given that instances of moral policing are so widely reported from both BJP and non-BJP states, we need to understand the heavily feudal morality that still drives most of the public psyche," she said.

She added that such incidents are often enabled by broader social attitudes and gatekeeping by local communities.

"Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) are known to have a very sectarian, anti-people, anti-worker attitude that is visible through their treatment of house-help, street vendors, delivery personnel, etc. In a bid to maintain some form of exclusivity stemming from their class-caste character, they often tend to exercise power against the more vulnerable. Young adults, unmarried couples, bachelors and students frequently bear the brunt of such problematic behaviour," Aratrika said.

Incidents of couples being questioned or asked to leave parks and other public spaces have periodically surfaced across Karnataka, prompting debates over the extent of police intervention in public places and the right of consenting adults to occupy such spaces without harassment. Civil liberties groups have repeatedly argued that, unless an offence is being committed, nothing justifies police action.

Vishwas Srinivas, Gender and Sexuality Fellow at Leading with Pride, said the role of the police is limited to ensuring that parks are not used for unlawful activities such as the consumption of alcohol or drugs. However, he alleged that officers often exceed their mandate by policing consensual interactions between adults.

"We see this across parks, including Cubbon Park and Lalbagh. Young people may want to spend time alone or with company, in nature, but the fear of being morally policed restrains them from freely accessing these spaces. The constitutional framework is ignored and no real measures to ensure the safety of women and children are being implemented," he said.

**RWAs and police dept help each other to carry out such interventions, activists claim**

Vishwas said interventions like involving parents disproportionately affect women.

"The police often ask the woman, 'Do your parents know? Should we inform them?' This affects young adults and especially women, despite them being aware of their legal rights. The couple is present in public for a reason, as Indian families are not often welcoming of romantic relationships. The police misuse this cultural context to override the legal rights of these vulnerable couples. It is not just a misuse of power by the police, but also a reflection of patriarchal prejudices and an attitude against consensual love," he said.

He added that such incidents discourage couples from using public spaces. "These incidents have a chilling effect on couples who intend to use third spaces to cherish their relationships. Bengaluru already has a severe shortage of freely accessible public spaces, and moral policing further restricts their ability to use the few that are available," Vishwas said.

Vishwas also pointed to the role of RWAs, arguing that they often reinforce moral policing by working in tandem with the police.

"They have a habit of threatening young couples with raising complaints with the police. This is an extension of the same patriarchal behaviour. They also target other vulnerable people, such as those who feed stray animals or groups of boys, without cause. They just assume moral superiority. It is this conservatism that needs to be tackled at a societal level and not really at a policy level," he said. According to him, the relationship between RWAs and law enforcement creates a cycle that emboldens such interventions in public spaces.

"Ultimately, the police want to remain in the good books of the RWAs and hence promptly show up. RWAs, on the other hand, do not take up serious issues such as harassment and tend to shy away from giving them any prominence.

This circular relationship between RWAs and the police department only strengthens each other," he said. Vishwas argued that these incidents are symptomatic of a broader culture of social surveillance and exclusion.

"This sort of micro-patriarchal governance that happens in a totalitarian society is also something that the government wants. Of late, we have witnessed DINK (Double Income, No Kids) couples being targeted. Anyone who does not suit their standard of societal expectations is singled out for the vaguest of reasons," he said.

A sociologist said that parks occupy a unique place in Indian cities because they serve as some of the few affordable public spaces where young people can socialise. "In cities where private spaces are inaccessible or unaffordable, public parks become important "third spaces" for interaction. Moral policing restricts access to these spaces by creating an atmosphere of surveillance and fear, discouraging citizens from exercising their right to freely assemble and associate," they said.


Your Connect

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

HENNUR

**ORCHID** WOODS, EAST FACING 2 BHK FLAT 1150sqft with built in Wardrobes, Kitchen cabinets & All amenities for sale. Call - 98450-07176

PEENYA

**5454** sft North-East corner shed on 60ft road with 40HP power on Andrahalli main road, Peenya 2nd stage. KSSIDC 1st allottee. Brokers strictly excuse. Rs. 9 crores. Direct Owner: 9686111709

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

KOLAR

30x40 SITE FOR SALE
Citrus Motown at KOLAR

**CITRUS MOTOWN,** KOLAR: 30x40 SITE For immediate sale, Rs. 2500 per sq ft. For more details Contact - 87952 25021.

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

**1305** sft on eleventh floor raheja tower m.g.road. fully furnished centralised ac for rent or sale Call 8867115586

GET NOTICED

SHARASH UTSAV 2026

Buy Handicrafts & Handloom Products, Encourage Artisan's

Bedsheets
Crockery
Meerut Khadi
Handloom Sari & Kurta
Hyderabadi Pearls & Crystal
Kolkata Jeans & Fancy Bags
Jaipur Kurtis
Ladies Nighty
Madhubani Painting
Books
Artificial Fancy Jewellery
& Many more Items....

VISIT TODAY EXHIBITION cum SALE 10.30 am To 9.30pm

Entry & Parking Free All Credit & Debit Card Accepted

26/06/2026 to 26/07/2026

SONNENAHALLI MAIN ROAD, DOMMSANDRA, OPPOSITE FAMILY MART AND FEDERAL BANK BANGALORE - 560049

9844557770 / 9066730705 / 7204097085

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.


# Rs 25.92 crore in penalties failed to halt violations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

indicating that only about one in every four detected violations resulted in criminal prosecution.

The department imposed penalties amounting to Rs 2,592 lakh (Rs 25.92 crore) over the three years, averaging Rs 1.09 lakh per detected case. Critics argue that the penalties remain too small compared to the profits generated through illegal extraction, allowing many operators to continue their activities despite repeated enforcement.

The latest accident has also highlighted safety violations at illegal mining sites. Sources said that labourers, including migrant workers from neighbouring states and local workers, continue to work in quarries where safety norms are allegedly ignored. The absence of protective equipment such as helmets, safety belts and dust masks, coupled with unsafe blasting practices and unregulated stone cutting, has repeatedly resulted in fatal accidents, stone collapses and machinery-related deaths.

Data from the Mines and Geology Department also indicates a decline in mining revenue in several districts. Revenue from Bengaluru Urban fell from Rs 79.98 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 61.80 crore in 2025-26, while Bengaluru Rural declined from Rs 203.65 crore to Rs 181.14 crore during the same period. Similar declines were recorded in Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Davanagere, Koppal and Mysuru. Overall mining revenue reduced from Rs 7,698.97 crore in 2024-25 to Rs 6,887.32 crore in 2025-26, although Ballari continued to contribute the highest share with over Rs 4,150 crore.

Allegations have also surfaced that illegal quarries now outnumber licenced ones in parts of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Shivamogga, Chitradurga, Koppal, Ballari and Raichur. Krishne Gowda, an activist alleged, "Influential individuals shield some illegal quarry operators, while action is largely confined to filing police cases after accidents occur. On the other hand, convictions of quarry owners remain rare, with drivers and machine operators often bearing the brunt of criminal prosecution."

Concerns have also been raised over the illegal movement of explosives used in quarrying. "In recent months, we have seized consignments of gelatin sticks and detonators in and around Bengaluru, including recoveries of 231 gelatin sticks and 50 detonators in one operation. We suspect that explosives are being transported illegally from neighbouring states and supplied to quarry operators through unauthorised dealer networks," said a police official.

Meanwhile, district-level task forces constituted to curb illegal mining are reportedly functioning below expectations. Though these committees are meant to coordinate enforcement involving the police, Mines and Geology, Revenue, Forest and Transport departments under the supervision of Deputy Commissioners, officials say meetings are irregular in several districts. "The latest tragedy is expected to intensify demands for stricter monitoring, seizure of machinery, cancellation of licences of repeat offenders and tougher criminal action against those responsible for illegal mining," said Shiva Kumar, another activist.

CM DK Shivakumar assured that stricter mining guidelines would be formulated to ensure such tragedies do not recur. "Strict action will be taken against all those found to have violated the law. FIRs will be registered, and we will examine all reports to identify any violations before initiating action under the legal framework," he said.

# SCROLL WITH IT

## 8 social media habits that can actually improve your life

Social media is often seen as a source of endless scrolling, but it can be much more than that when used with purpose. From discovering new skills and staying informed to building meaningful relationships and supporting inspiring creators, these platforms offer countless opportunities for personal growth. The key lies in using social media intentionally rather than mindlessly. Here is how you can do that:

### 1 Curate a feed that inspires you

The content you consume every day has a powerful impact on your mindset, emotions, and overall well-being. Instead of following accounts that leave you feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or constantly comparing yourself to others, curate a feed filled with creators who educate, inspire, entertain, or motivate you. Whether it's skincare experts, fitness coaches, artists, travel enthusiasts, or mental wellness advocates, surrounding yourself with positive and informative content can make social media a valuable source of learning and encouragement.

### 2 Learn something new every day

Social media has evolved into a powerful learning platform, offering everything from cooking tutorials and language lessons to financial advice, fitness tips, and DIY projects. Instead of scrolling aimlessly, dedicate a few minutes each day to consuming content that teaches you something valuable. Following educators, industry experts, or creators who share practical knowledge can help you build new skills, stay informed, and explore hobbies you may never have considered.

### 3 Support small businesses and local creators

Social media has become a powerful platform for small businesses and independent creators to share their work, connect with audiences, and grow their brands. Every like, comment, share, save, or purchase can help increase their visibility and support their journey. Whether it's discovering a local skincare brand, a handmade jewellery business, or an emerging artist, your engagement can have a meaningful impact.

### 4 Save useful content instead of mindless scrolling

Instead of endlessly scrolling through your feed, start saving content that you know you'll revisit. Whether it's healthy recipes, workout routines, travel itineraries, productivity hacks, skincare tips, or financial advice, creating organised collections can turn social media into a personal resource library. Most platforms allow you to bookmark posts into folders, making useful information easy to find when you need it.

### 5 Join positive communities

One of the best things about social media is the ability to connect with people who enjoy the same things you do. Whether you're passionate about reading, fitness, photography, skincare, cooking, or travel, there is likely a welcoming community waiting for you online. Joining supportive groups and forums allows you to exchange ideas, ask questions, learn from others, and share your own experiences.

These connections can make hobbies feel more enjoyable and motivating, and in many cases, online friendships grow into meaningful relationships that extend beyond the digital world.

### 6 Celebrate others' success

Social media can easily become a place for comparison, but it can also be a space for encouragement and genuine connection. Instead of measuring your progress against someone else's achievements, celebrate their milestones and let their success inspire your own journey. Leaving a thoughtful comment, sharing words of encouragement, or simply appreciating someone's hard work helps create a more positive online environment. Remember, success is not a limited resource.

### 7 Set healthy screen boundaries

Social media should enhance your day, not consume it. Creating phone-free moments during meals, family gatherings, work hours, or before bedtime can help you maintain a healthier relationship with technology. Setting simple boundaries allows you to stay present, improve focus, strengthen personal relationships, and reduce digital fatigue. You don't have to give up social media entirely. Instead, use it with intention by making room for offline experiences that matter just as much.

### 8 Share authentically

Social media is at its best when it reflects real people and genuine experiences. Instead of chasing every trend or striving for perfection, focus on sharing content that feels authentic to you. Whether it's a personal milestone, a creative project, a useful tip, or an honest moment, authenticity resonates far more than carefully curated perfection. Being yourself encourages meaningful conversations, builds trust with your audience, and helps create a positive online space where others feel comfortable doing the same.

**—Manushri Soni, Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

## Yoga helps reduce symptoms of gaming disorder among adolescents, study finds

A randomised controlled trial conducted in a school setting has found that an eight-week Integrated Yoga Module significantly reduced symptoms of Internet Gaming Disorder (IGD) among adolescents, while also improving emotional well-being, attention, and quality of life.

The study, now published in PubMed in 2026, highlights growing concerns around excessive gaming among teenagers and presents yoga as a feasible school-based intervention to address the issue.

The trial included 120 adolescents who met criteria for IGD. They were assigned to either a yoga intervention group (60 students) or a control group (60 students) who continued routine academic activities. Researchers assessed participants before and after the intervention using tools such as the Internet Gaming Disorder Scale (IGDS-20), Internet Addiction Test (IAT), Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS-21), WHO QOL-BREF, UCLA Loneliness Scale, and Mind Wandering Questionnaire.

Findings showed improvements in the yoga group across all core IGD symptoms including salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal, conflict, and relapse. Reduction in depression, anxiety, stress, loneliness, and mind wandering were also reported. Quality of life improved across physical, psychological, social, and environmental domains.

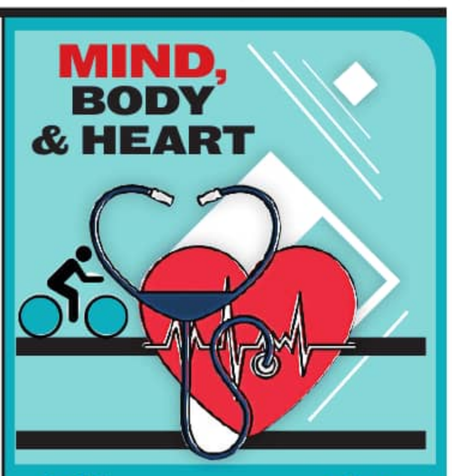
Researchers said there were no baseline differences between groups, strengthening the evidence that changes were driven by the intervention.

Nagalakshmi S Rao from the Division of Yoga and Life Sciences at Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYASA), Bengaluru, described how the intervention was designed and implemented.

"Per day, they were engaged in more than two hours of gaming even during the screening phase. It was the post-COVID period, and their communication with peers had become very limited. After we introduced the yoga intervention, we received positive feedback. We had developed a structured module. In the first four weeks, we conducted a feasibility study and refined the yoga module, which was validated by 25 yoga experts. It was designed for gaming disorders, addressing both physiological and psychological aspects."

The module consisted of breathing practices, standing and sitting postures, Surya Namaskara and relaxation techniques. "We tested it for four weeks and then implemented it for eight weeks. Every day it was a 40-minute session. After the intervention, they were less stressed. Gaming levels also reduced. They were more attentive and started interacting with family and teachers," said Rao.

**—Iffath Fathima**




## All you need to know about...

*Stress and gut*

**Alters microbiome**
A study describes a mechanism in mice through which psychological stress can alter gut microbiome and thereby can increase risk of health conditions including heart disease and diabetes. Findings published in the journal Cell Stem Cell psychological stress speeds up aging-like changes in the body's blood-forming stem cells in the bone marrow -- called hematopoietic stem cells -- by altering the intestinal microbiota.

**Effect of stress**
"Our research shows how stress-responsive brain regions regulate the balance of the intestinal microbiota, which affects the function of hematopoietic stem cells," senior author Meng Zhao of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, said. They added previous studies have shown that chronic stress can influence immune function and immune cell formation in the bone marrow through inflammatory pathways and adrenergic receptors, which drive the body's 'fight-or-flight' response.

**What chronic stress does**
Chronic stress was found to reduce activity in two brain regions -- the medial prefrontal cortex, which integrates emotional and cognitive information, and the periaqueductal gray, important for pain modulation.

**Related to stomach**
They also observed changes in signals sent to the intestines. For example, the stressed mice had a loss of Lactobacillus reuteri -- a species important for maintaining a healthy balance of gut microbes -- and lowered levels of spermidine, a naturally occurring compound crucial for clearing out damaged cells. "One surprising finding of our study was that suppression of only two specific brain regions was sufficient to produce many of the defects caused by stress," author Linjia Jiang said.

**—PTI**

**# Made with AI?**
Hollywood star Jodie Foster is convinced Brad Pitt's film "F1" was made with Artificial Intelligence

## Preity approaches court against deepfake menace

Preity Zinta has approached the Bombay High Court seeking an injunction against the circulation of AI-generated deepfake videos, morphed images, and other unauthorised digital content depicting her. The case has been filed as 'Preity Zinta v. Google LLC & Ors.'

When the matter came up on July 3, Justice Madhav Jamdar indicated that he would pass orders on July 6 after directing the parties to work together on a practical mechanism for removing the allegedly infringing content from online platforms.

In her suit, Zinta has named several intermediaries as respondents, including Google and Meta, along with domain name registrars and certain identified infringers. She has alleged that AI-generated deepfake videos, manipulated images, and chatbot-style interactions portraying her are being hosted across various online platforms.

Appearing for Zinta, senior advocate Venkatesh Dhond argued that AI-generated deepfakes are becoming increasingly sophisticated. He urged the court to grant urgent ex parte relief directing identified websites and intermediaries to immediately remove all infringing material referred to in the pleadings.

Dhond further requested John Doe orders against unidentified infringers and sought a wider injunction restraining all persons from publishing or distributing unauthorised AI-generated content featuring Zinta. **—ETimes**

## Acting in the time of social media

### Divya Dutta speaks about new challenges that actors face today

Divya Dutta was recently appreciated for her portrayal of a woman who takes a stand against her family in the show Chiraiya. In conversation with us, Dutta spoke about the new challenges facing actors in the age of social media and more.

Divya who's been in the industry for over three decades feels the challenge for today's actors is the rise of social media and influencer culture. "When it comes to opportunities, I think we faced far more hurdles when I started out because there were fewer opportunities and fewer mediums." She added, "Today, you can make a reel for yourself and suddenly become a star. Producers notice you and say, 'Okay, let's take this person.' In that sense, it has become easier." She says that though influencers have built strong professions, but also notes the flip side. "It affects mental health. The younger generation is stuck in a space where everything revolves around likes, validation and visibility. People have also become more focused on recording moments instead of actually experiencing them," she says. But, she believes the depth is still there. Recalling an event where a Gen Z audience listened to her in complete silence, she says the real challenge lies in the pressure that tells young people to "bring followers first, then you'll get work."

On the question of why Bollywood still struggles to portray truly strong women, Dutta says such roles do exist, but they are fewer. **—Shree Mishra, ETimes**

## Greek getaway

**Actress Ananya Panday has shared a picturesque carousel from her recent getaway in Greece.**

**The actress revealed that she spent 'the most beautiful five days' with wonderful people while learning more about the earth, people and herself.**

**Taking to her social media account, Ananya dropped a carousel of umpteen number of pictures from her vacation.**

**The album featured stunning views of Greece's crystal-clear turquoise waters and rocky coastline. It also had glimpses of her enjoying a swim in the sea and posing in a white summer dress by the beach.**

**In other pictures, Ananya was seen spending time with friends amidst breathtaking sunset views, and a simple Mediterranean meal of fresh tomatoes.**

**In one picture, the actress was seen relaxing by the shore in a green bikini, and another picture captured her taking a group selfie with her travel companions.**

**Sharing the pictures, she wrote, "The most beautiful five days with the most beautiful people so much to learn about the earth and people and ourselves." On the work front, Ananya made her Bollywood debut in 2019 with Karan Johar's 'Student of the Year 2'. —IANS**

## Action thriller that lacks a punch

With the movie Deadly Killer, action choreographer and director Thriller Manju makes a comeback after a gap of 15 years. Movie enthusiasts who watched Thriller Manju's maiden directorial Police Story were eagerly awaiting his next film. But, they will be disappointed. This film has loads of action scenes, but too many dialogues and insipid performance by character artistes prove to be let-downs. It doesn't help that Thriller Manju, who plays a gang leader (don), looks tired throughout the movie. It also showcases Karnataka Police in a poor light not only in one sequence but in three sequences that are far from convincing.

The movie begins with a police van carrying six notorious criminals from Odisha Forest to Karnataka through Andhra Pradesh Forest. The criminals are Abdullah aka Eagle with 98 cases, Shobharaj aka Darling with 116 cases, Robert aka Speaker with 161 cases, Prasanna aka Dhum with 99 cases, Sona aka Dayana with 72 cases, and Thriller aka Don with 126 cases.

On the way, the police van driver gets confused about the actual route and gets misguided by a boy and his father in the forest. The police van's tyre gets punctured in the forest. A gang of criminals help the criminals in the van to escape from police custody. The six-member gang enters a house in the forest where Jayasimha (Abhay Veer) and his wife Cauvery (Niviskha) live. The criminals threaten the couple and stay at their house. You have to watch the movie to know who Jayasimha and Cauvery are and what happens to them.

**DEADLY KILLER**
**2.5** RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Thriller Manju
- **ACTORS** Abhay Veer, Nishvika, Thriller Manju, Lokendra Surya, Sunil, Abhi, and Puneeth
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 148 minutes

Abhay Veer makes debut as a full-fledged hero with this movie. His character has two shades. He looks like a coward in the pre-intermission session and becomes a nightmare for the criminals in the second half. Nivishka plays a character with two shades.

It is worth a watch for those who crave action movies. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

## Intimate wedding plans

Superstar Aamir Khan has said his wedding with partner Gauri Spratt will be held at his residence here on July 5 and he hopes that they have a good life together.

Aamir on Thursday evening attended the screening of the upcoming show "Pritam and Pedro", which marks the series debut of Rajkumar Hirani, who worked with the superstar on movies "3 Idiots" and "PK".

Talking to reporters, the 61-year-old actor said the wedding will be an intimate affair that will be attended by close family and friends.

"I'm getting married on July 5, and the wedding will take place at home with close family and friends. We seek everyone's blessings and hope that we have a happy journey together," said Aamir, who was accompanied by son Junaid Khan at the event.

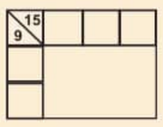
This will be the third marriage for Aamir, who first married film producer Reena Dutta from 1986 to 2002. They share two children - Junaid and Ira Khan.

In 2005, he married director Kiran Rao and the couple separated in 2021. They continue to co-parent their son, Azad. **—PTI**

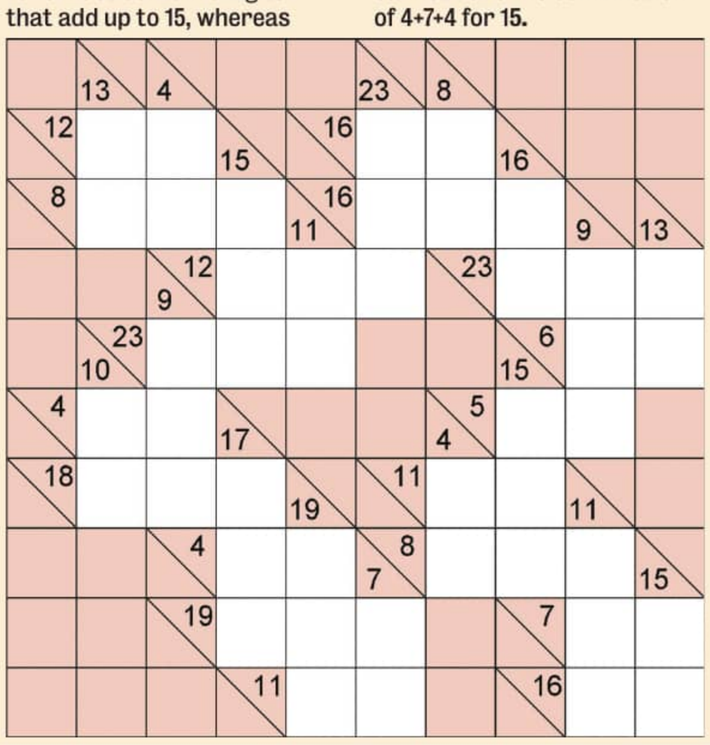
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror


## Kakuro

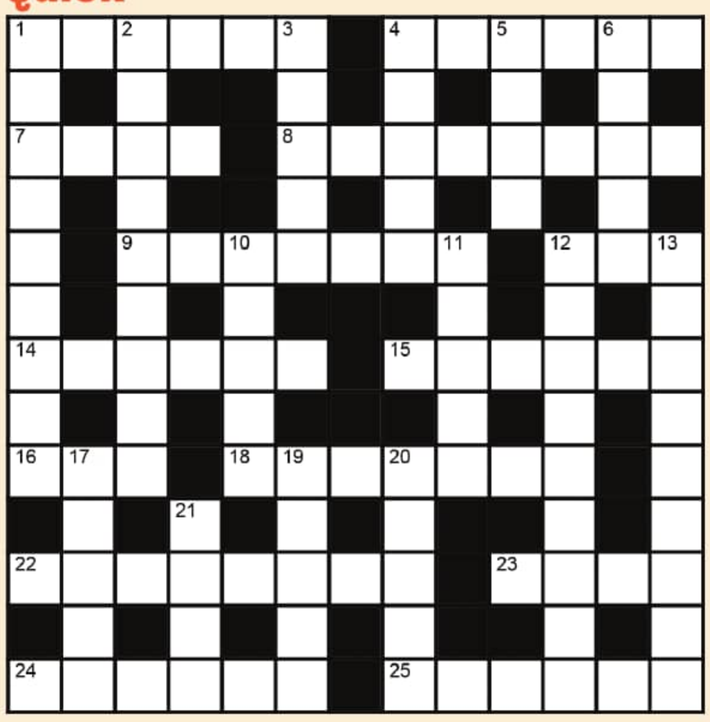
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Outlawed (6)
4 Prodded or spurred (6)
7 Garment for a Roman (4)
8 Infrequent, sporadic or separated (8)
9 Tidal wave (7)
12 Seeing organ (3)
14 Not firm; limp (6)
15 Roam or digress (6)
16 Tibetan animal (3)
18 Bollywood's Ms Kaif (7)
22 ___ ___ cups: What Donne Biryani is served in (4,4)
23 Be employed (4)
24 Imperfection (6)
25 Forbore or omitted? (6)

**DOWN**

1 One Puccini heroine (9)
2 Nocturnal flier (9)
3 Condescend (5)
4 Sadness or depression (5)
5 Slightly open (4)
6 Foe (5)
10 Tashkent native (5)
11 India's cricket trophy (5)
12 Strive (9)
13 Reserved for a special use (9)
17 Alert and heedful (5)
19 Heedful or cautious (5)
20 Floating log structures (5)
21 The friendly pirate in 'Peter Pan' (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: L EQUALS W**

OK OX QMK EIFCQ QCKIWA
LA XEMINZ CPPIXA YIK KEA
ZAXJOPCYNA PMQUAQKOMQX
KECK JAWUAWK OK.

## Linemaro

You must be the speed of light. Because time stops when I look at you

## Mindchow

May your joys be as deep as the ocean, your sorrows as light as its foam

## Joke of the day

Accident: A condition in which presence of mind is good, but absence of body is better.

## Loop

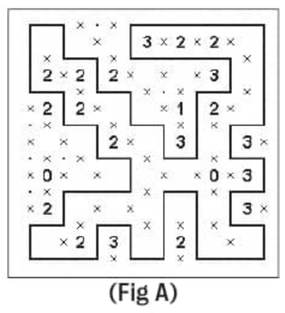
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

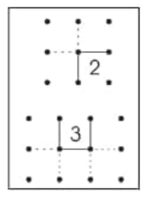
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

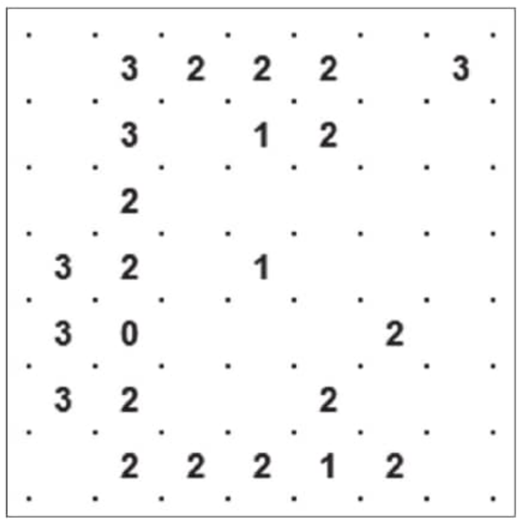
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



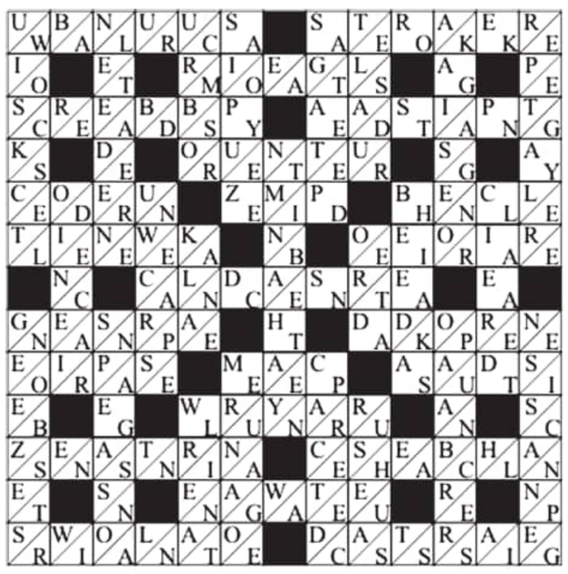
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



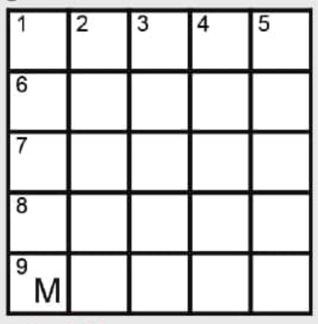
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

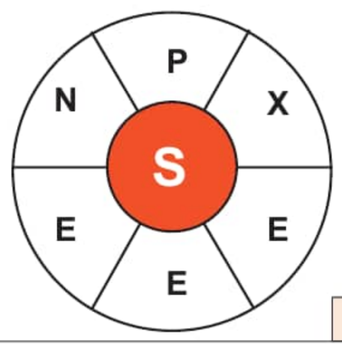
1 St gas; 6 E teen;
7 Yo Jen; 8 No ade;
9 Emu so

**DOWN**

1 Meats; 2 Tonne;
3 Juno a; 4 Gee do;
5 St yes

## Mensapuzzle

Which letter goes in the empty box at the bottom of the pile?




## Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**01** Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | | | | | | 7 | 3 |
| | 2 | | 5 | | 6 | | 8 | |
| | | | 7 | 3 | 9 | | | |
| 1 | | | 9 | | 3 | | | 7 |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | | | 4 | | 1 | | | 5 |
| | | | 2 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| | 7 | | 1 | | 4 | | 3 | |
| 9 | 6 | | | | | | 2 | 8 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 10
4 5 6 7

**Medium** = 27
3 4 4 7

**Hard** = 24
2 2 4 4

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

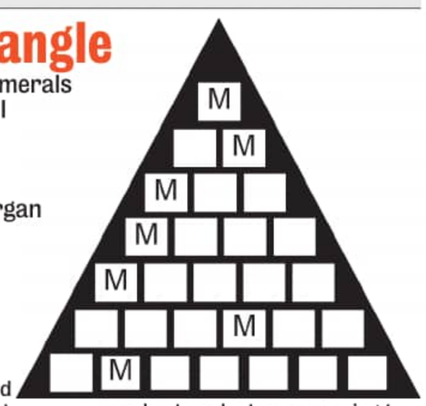
**Differences:** 1. Cast is smaller. 2. Leaf is added. 3. Doorknob is lower. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Arm is lower. 6. Lapel is missing.

## Riddler

What connects Shikoku, Honshu and Kyushu?

## Alpha triangle

1 1000 in Roman numerals
2 I think therefore I
3 Homo sapiens
4 Midpoint
5 High-IQ group
6 Pollen-bearing organ
7 Free pardon




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye

YOU CAN'T LET HIM LEAVE HOME!
HE'S JUST A BABY!
HE'S TOO LITTLE TO FACE THE WORLD!
OKAY! OKAY! YOU WINS!
I WILL TELL HIM HE HAS TO STAY HOME!
I BET THEY WON'T EVEN KNOW I YAM GONE!!
10-2
popeye.com
©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

I HEAR HOWARD'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND TOWN IN HIS THONG AGAIN
YUP
HE CERTAINLY ISN'T EMBARRASSED ABOUT SHOWING OFF HIS BODY
NOT IN THE LEAST
WHAT DO THEY CALL A PERSON LIKE THAT?
I BELIEVE THE CLINICAL TERM IS "WHACK JOB"
©2015 creators.com
3/14
www.creators.com
BARRY BLITT

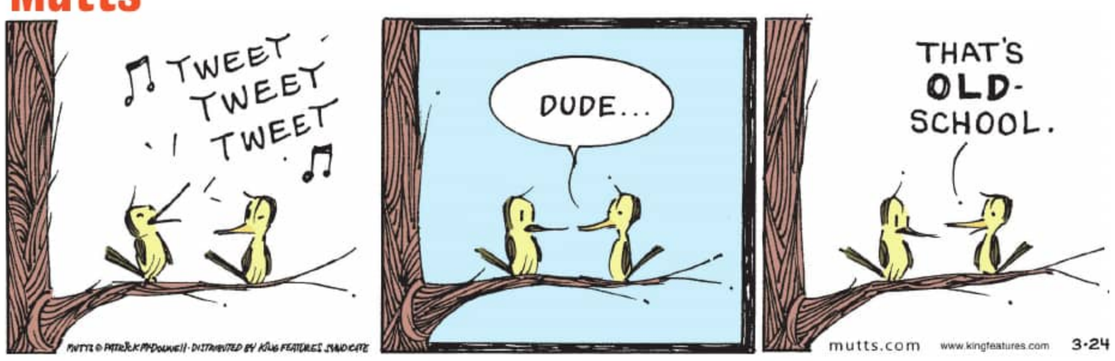
## Hart of the city

IN ORDER TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MASCOT, YOU NEED AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHOREOGRAPHY, ATHLETIC ABILITY, AND STRONG NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS!
CHOREO
STRENGTH
COMMUNICATION
I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE.
THEN YOU CAN ONLY GET BETTER FROM HERE!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
3/25

## Crankshaft

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE CLOSE TO AGREEING ON A NEW SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS CONTRACT... KNOCK ON WOOD!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUPERSTITIOUS, ED.
KNOCKING ON WOOD ISN'T SUPERSTITIOUS...
IT'S JUST A GOOD THING TO DO!
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
3-24

## Mutts




# WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

## If it's your birthday today

This year is all about security, stability, and building a sanctuary. You will focus on strengthening your roots, whether that means upgrading your living space, securing your finances, or deepening bonds with the people who feel like home.

### Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Nothing happens by accident, Aries. If an opportunity appears, you're ready. A new chapter filled with passion and growth is beginning. Say yes, even if it feels bigger than expected.

### Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Something important is coming soon, Taurus. Use this time to prepare and be patient. Whether it's love or a new idea, keep believing. Waiting a little longer will pay off.

### Gemini May 21–Jun 21

A difficult time is finally behind you, Gemini. Now that life has supported you, share kindness with others. Small caring actions matter most because they spread positive energy everywhere.

### Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Your choices can shape your future, Cancer. Keep moving forward and take action. Whether it's work, study, or rest, your efforts matter. Trust your ability to attract success.

### Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

What you're building now, Leo, could reach an important stage within a year. Stay focused on your goals. Progress is happening steadily, and results will be shaped perfectly for you.

### Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

What you want may seem far away right now, Virgo. Stay hopeful. Something even better could be coming. Face your fears, stay open-minded, and keep looking for solutions.

### Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Opportunity surrounds you today, Libra. As answers arrive, be ready to say yes. Explore new ideas, use your skills, and take action on plans you've been putting off.

### Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

The answer is yes, Scorpio. You've worried long enough. Trust that support is available when you ask. Think differently, build better habits, and take practical steps toward progress.

### Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Learn more before making decisions, Sagittarius. Things are not as simple as they seem. Helpful information is coming your way. Finish unfinished tasks and trust that worries will pass.

### Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

If you're waiting for answers, Capricorn, expect delays today. Tension or strong emotions may arise. Avoid forcing outcomes. Let others help, and allow things to settle naturally.

### Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

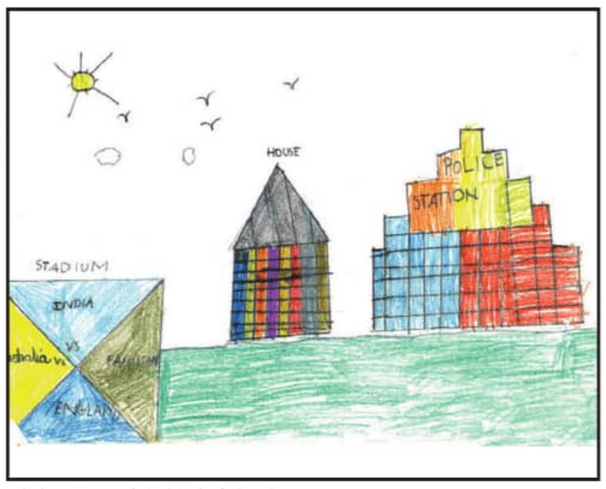
Love is your focus today, Aquarius, whether in relationships, work, or purpose. Follow your heart, stay focused, and see challenges as chances to pause before moving ahead.

### Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Things are likely to work out smoothly today, Pisces. Keep communication honest and kind. Speak from the heart, and if emotions rise, step away briefly and reset.

www.sundeepkochar.com

# KIDZONE




Adithya Prasad, Brigade School

Gowri Setty, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**

√(5+5x1-5)^4 / 25 =
√(5+5-5)^4 / 25 =
√(10 - 5)^4 / 25 =
√(5)^4 / 25 =
√625/25 =
25 / 25 = 1

**BULL'S EYE**

EXPENSE, seen, seep

**RIDDLER**

They are Japanese islands.

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | A | G | S |
| T | E | N | E | T |
| E | N | J | O | Y |
| A | N | O | D | E |
| M | O | U | E | S |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | L | R | U | S | ■ | S | T | O | K | E | R | ■ | ■ |
| I | ■ | E | ■ | M | O | A | T | S | ■ | A | ■ | E | ■ | ■ |
| C | R | A | B | B | Y | ■ | E | A | S | I | N | G | ■ | ■ |
| K | ■ | D | ■ | O | U | T | E | R | ■ | S | ■ | A | ■ | ■ |
| E | D | E | N | ■ | Z | I | P | ■ | H | E | L | L | ■ | ■ |
| T | I | N | E | A | ■ | B | ■ | E | R | I | ■ | E | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | C | ■ | A | L | D | E | N | T | ■ | E | ■ | A | ■ | ■ |
| G | E | N | R | ■ | T | ■ | A | D | O | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | R | A | S | ■ | M | A | P | ■ | S | U | D | S | ■ | ■ |
| E | ■ | G | ■ | L | U | N | A | R | ■ | N | ■ | C | ■ | ■ |
| Z | E | A | T | I | N | ■ | C | H | A | C | H | A | ■ | ■ |
| E | ■ | N | ■ | N | G | W | E | E | ■ | E | ■ | P | ■ | ■ |
| R | I | A | L | T | O | ■ | D | A | S | S | I | E | ■ | ■ |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | N | N | E | D | ■ | G | O | A | D | E | D | ■ | ■ |
| U | ■ | I | ■ | E | ■ | L | ■ | J | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | O | G | A | ■ | I | S | O | L | A | T | E | D | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | H | ■ | G | ■ | O | ■ | R | ■ | M | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | ■ | T | S | U | N | A | M | I | ■ | E | Y | E | ■ | ■ |
| R | ■ | H | ■ | Z | ■ | R | ■ | N | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| F | L | A | B | B | Y | ■ | W | A | N | D | E | R | ■ | ■ |
| L | ■ | W | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | E | ■ | M | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Y | A | K | ■ | K | A | T | R | I | N | A | ■ | A | ■ | ■ |
| P | A | L | M | L | E | A | F | ■ | V | ■ | ■ | R | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | W | ■ | S | ■ | L | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| P | A | L | M | L | E | A | F | ■ | W | O | R | K | ■ | ■ |
| K | ■ | E | ■ | R | ■ | T | ■ | U | ■ | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | ■ |
| C | H | A | C | H | A | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | P | ■ | ■ |

**QUOTE UNCODE**

It is not human nature we should accuse but the deplorable conventions that pervert it.

**MENSA PUZZLE**

W. Starting at the top, the value of the right hand letter is two ahead of the left hand letter, then 3 ahead, then 4, etc.

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 |

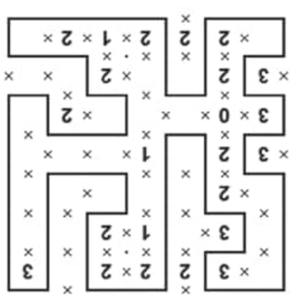
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**

M, Am, Man, Mean, Mensa, Stamen, Amnesty.

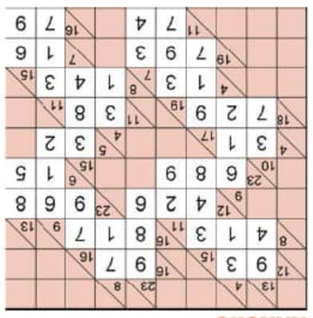
**GO FIGURE**

7 + 5 − 6 + 4 = 10
Easy
7 x 4 − 4 + 3 = 27
Medium
4 x 2 − 2 x 4 = 24
Hard

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



Volume No 19, Issue No 027 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

# Introducing
# BaaS in Hyundai CRETA Electric.

Price starts at
**₹10.99 Lakh**# + Battery EMI @ ₹3.9/km##

- Avail attractive benefits up to **₹70 000***
- Up to 100% on road funding excluding battery
- Free charger installation

- 8 Years / 1 60 000 km battery warranty^^
- Driving range up to 510 km per full charge**
- Fast DC charging: 10% to 80% in 39 min (50 kW)***
- Over 28 000 EV charging points mapped on myHyundai app
- In-car Payment
- 0 to 100 km/h in 7.9s^
- Hyundai's global EV technology
- V2L: Power your appliances inside and outside^^^

my Hyundai app | Hyundai Click to Buy | 3 Year Unlimited Kilometer Warranty | Upto 7 Years Extended Warranty~ | Upto 5 Years Shield of Trust Service Packages~ | Bluelink 3 Years free Bluelink subscription with 70+ Bluelink features | HYUNDAI

## Advaith Hyundai

**25 New Car Showrooms | 5 Hyundai Promise Showrooms | 37 State-of-art Service Centers across Karnataka**

### New Car Showrooms

Bangalore: Residency Road - 9845390084 | Marathalli ORR - 9845516907 | Bilekahalli - 9900095665 | Millers Road - 9620147012 | Koramangala - 9606950352 | Bannerghatta Road - 9900086782 | Avalahalli - 9845186051 | Sarjapura - 9620733385 | Anekal - 9964039537 | Kolar - 9620229885 | Chintamani - 8147994737 | Ramanagara - 9620594433 | Tiptur - 7619577050 | Mysore - Belwadi - 9538970707 | JLB Road - 9538971141 | V V Nagar - 9945773967 | Hassan - 9538971132 I Mandya - 9740060075 | Kodagu: Gonikoppal - 9945774088 | Madikeri - 9538971151 | Kushalnagara 9538971149 | Belthangadi - 7760962819 | Sullia - 7760962813 | Mangalore - 7760962814

### Service:

Bangalore - Mission Road | JC Road | Vasanth Nagar | Rajajinagar | Binnyston | Bannerghatta Road | Outer Ring Road | Banashankari | Hulimavu | Hulimavu New | JP Nagar | ITPL | ITPL NEW | Indiranagar | Sarjapura | Anekal | Avalahalli | Mandur | Uttarahalli | Kolar | Chintamani | Ramanagara | Mandya | Mysore - JBL Road | Belvadi | VV Nagar | Hassan | Hassan New | Tiptur | Kodagu - Kushalnagar | Madikeri | Gonikoppal | Mangalore - Kuntikana | Baikampady (New) | Baikampady | Sulia | Belthangady

**9606076451** **www.advaithhyundai.com** **9902099944**

*Terms & conditions apply. Benefits mentioned are valid till 31st July 2026. Offers and benefits mentioned include cash, corporate, government employee, exchange/scrappage and upgrade offers, wherever applicable. **Range as per AIS 040 (Rev.1) (km) ARAI certification under controlled conditions for 51.4 kWh new battery pack. ^Basis HMIL internal testing under controlled conditions for 51.4 kWh new battery pack. ***10%-80% in 39 minutes using 50 kW DC Charging. Charging time is dependent upon multiple factors including charger specification, ambient temperature, uninterrupted power supply, etc. For creative representation purpose only. The black shades on glass is due to lighting effect. Bluelink functionality is dependent on adequate power supply and uninterrupted network connectivity. ^^Battery warranty up to 8 years or 160,000 km whichever earlier. #Price mentioned is ex-showroom price for BaaS variants only, EMI for battery is in addition to the mentioned price. EMI for battery is available through select banking financiers for limited locations. ##Battery EMI is calculated assuming financing of 90% of battery cost availed at 8.75% interest rate for 8 years tenure, with an average monthly running of 2 330 KMs (mileage assumption based on internal data of top 2 states in terms of total mileage covered). Battery EMI amount may vary and is dependent upon customer profile and other criteria of the financier. Battery charging costs are additional and to be borne by the customer. ^^^For V2L outside, the gun would be available as an accessory on payable basis. ~For detailed terms & conditions of Extended Warranty, Road Side Assistance & Shield of Trust/Shield of Trust Super, kindly visit Hyundai India website. https://www.hyundai.com.